

Thatcher urges extra vigilance

# Ian Gow MP murdered by IRA car bomb

By RAY CLANCY AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

IAN GOW'S outspoken views on Northern Ireland cost him his life yesterday when a 5lb IRA car bomb exploded at his home in East Sussex.

Mr Gow, a close friend of the prime minister, was the fourth sitting MP to be killed by republican terrorists. His name had been on an IRA "hit list" found in Clapham, south London, last year and he had been advised on personal security precautions.

But Anne Murray, the Eastbourne MP's agent, said last night that he never checked his car. "He drove me to the office for the weekly surgery on Saturday mornings and I never saw him take any security precautions."

Last night the prime minister urged all MPs to be extra vigilant. She said security must be a continuous observation, a daily habit. "It is only when we have a tragedy like this in a quiet village that we perhaps think seriously about safety. I must urge all MPs and their families to take care."

Mrs Thatcher was speaking after spending an hour consoling Jane Gow, the MP's widow. The two families were close friends and Mr Gow had been Mrs Thatcher's first parliamentary private secretary when she became prime minister. He resigned from the government over the Anglo-Irish agreement in 1985, but remained a staunch supporter of other government policies.

Only last week, Mr Gow, who was chairman of the Conservative backbench Northern Ireland committee,

condemned the murder of a nun and three policemen as futile and odious, saying: "The message that should go out from all decent people is that we will never, never surrender to people like this."

Mr Gow, aged 53, was killed ten minutes after the bomb under the seat of his Montego car exploded at 8.39 am as he went to drive out of the car port at his home in Hankham.

When she visited Mrs Gow, Mrs Thatcher turned away from the wreckage in obvious distress. She said she could offer her friend no words of comfort. Earlier she had declared that the murder would make no difference to the government's fight against terrorism, saying: "If he could speak to me now, he would say 'We fight that battle against them and we bring them to justice'."

Last night Mrs Thatcher, dressed in black, went with Mrs Gow and her two sons to a special service at the local parish church.

Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said the bomb was a typical IRA device. "My first impression is that this large bomb was operated by a tilt switch on the vehicle and would have exploded as soon as the vehicle moved."

The force of the blast blew out both doors of the car and buckled the roof. Mr Gow died just after ambulancemen arrived to tend him, but his body was left in the vehicle for several hours while bomb squad officers arrived. Fragments from the explosion were collected from around the wrecked car and anti-terrorist officers, dog handlers and an army bomb disposal unit checked the area for other devices.

Mr Churchill-Coleman confirmed that Mr Gow was aware that he was a terrorist target and he appealed for anyone in the village who may have seen strangers in the past few days, weeks or months to contact the police. He said the device could have been planted on Sunday evening or during the night. "There must have been people here carrying out a reconnaissance operation either on foot or in a vehicle. We need to know about them."

Police forces nationwide recently warned all MPs of the danger they faced as a result of the renewed IRA campaign on the mainland. Rodney Lind, assistant chief constable of

Sussex, said Mr Gow was among those advised about security risks. Another MP known to be an IRA target admitted last night that he never checked the underside of his car when he was out of London. "By God I will now," he said, adding: "The danger when you return to your constituency is that your guard drops. Life is going to be very different now."

One of the first people on the scene was Mark Stewart, a garage mechanic, who rushed to the house when he heard the explosion. He said: "Somebody was coming out of the house and said Mr Gow was still alive, but he was in such a state. There was nothing we could do. You just want to do something but there was nothing that you could. It was frightening."

Among the stream of visitors at the house was Charles Wardle, MP for Bexhill and Battle, whose constituency covers Hankham. He said: "Ian was his own man. Because of his outspokenness he was murdered. Nevertheless, it is important that people realise the terrorists have achieved nothing from this atrocity."

"If Ian had been here he would have been the first to say that it is vital nothing is changed by what has happened. Intimidation and murder never changed him. Now he has paid with his life."

Another early visitor was Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader who is on holiday in Sussex. He said: "It was a devilish attack. These people have no regard for religion or morality. They have no regard for decency. This act shows they will sink to any depths to carry out their hellish and barbaric deeds."

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said: "No one must be daunted by these murderers. Ian Gow's killers proved their weakness in the face of democracy, not their strength."

In Washington, the Bush administration condemned Mr Gow's "senseless murder", and said it hoped those responsible would be caught and tried. "The US will continue to work with the UK and other nations to fight against international terrorism," a State Department spokesman said.

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## Japanese pay £743m for UK computer firm

BRITAIN'S largest remaining computer company has been sold to the Japanese Fujitsu group for £743 million. STC, the country's second largest electronics company, has agreed to sell 80 per cent of ICL to the Japanese by November.

It will make Fujitsu the second largest computer group in the world, with sales of up to £12 billion a year.

It could soon be large enough to challenge even IBM, the dominant American group.

It is also the culmination in a series of deals which have seen a large part of Britain's computer industry fall into foreign hands this year. April

not was earlier taken over by Mitsubishi from Japan, while the French company Cap Gemini Segret has taken control of Hoskyns, the software house.

Roger Lyons, the assistant general secretary of the Manufacturing Science and Finance Union, attacked the sale of ICL, which employs 22,000 people. He gave a warning that the British computer industry may follow the motorcycle industry into oblivion.

Arthur Walsh, STC's chairman, said he expected the government to back the sale which will leave STC with a cash pile of £700 million.

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Mrs Thatcher talking to police while visiting the scene of the car bomb (below) at Mr Gow's home yesterday

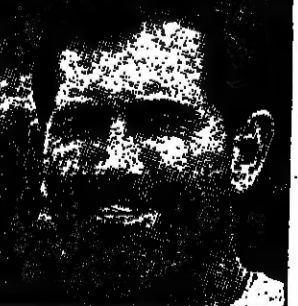


## Gooch hits his way to a record

GRAHAM Gooch, the England cricket captain, yesterday became the first player in Test history to score a triple century and a single century in the same match as he put his side in a powerful position on the fourth day of the first Test match against India at Lord's.

Gooch, who scored 333 in the first innings, hit 123 in 113 balls and shared in an opening stand of 204 with Michael Atherton. He declared at 272 for four to set the Indians a target of 472 for victory.

Earlier, Kapil Dev enabled India to avoid the follow-on by hitting four successive sixes off Eddie Hemmings, a record for sixes in a Test match over.



Gooch: triple century and century in one Test match

Match report, page 40

## Payment fading for Hanson bid

By MARTIN WALLER

JOHN Wakeham, the energy secretary, has been backtracking on the possibility of a payment to Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, in return for making a bid for PowerGen, as the dispute over the affair continued.

"There is no fee for making a bid. That is not the position. It is not likely to be. It never will be," he said in an interview on Radio Four's Today programme.

There was still the possibility that Hanson would receive a sum, as effective underwriter to the sale of PowerGen, if it makes a firm offer by mid-August and agrees to leave it on the table while other companies are allowed to bid.

Sources close to the PowerGen sale now say, however, that Hanson cannot expect to receive a payment if it eventually buys PowerGen, whether as a result of its initial offer or after a further bid during the tender process. This appears to contradict statements by Mr Wakeham over the weekend when he indicated that the payment would be made merely for allowing the offer to remain open for a fixed period.

Mr Wakeham had also talked of a fee for underwriting, which normally in the

City would mean the underwriter being paid whatever the result of the tender offer. Such a course of action, however, is now seen as unnecessary and politically unacceptable.

In the radio interview, he failed to use the word "underwrite". The government line now is that Hanson may be entitled to some contribution towards its expenses if PowerGen goes elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the queue of potential buyers of PowerGen lengthened. Veba of Japan, Mitsubishi of West Germany, RTZ, the conglomerate BTR and GEC are thought to be interested.

Two US oil companies are believed to be keeping a close watch on the situation as is Robert Maxwell. He said he was considering whether to back a possible bid from the Union of Democratic Mineworkers "both as an adviser and personal investor".

Roy Lym, the union's president, said he already had the backing in place for a bid, and his unnamed backer was not Mr Maxwell. "I've got the offer of more than £1.5 billion but I'm anxious to look around at other consortia to get the best deal," he said.

Letters, page 13

## Trinidad troops set TV centre ablaze

From JAMES BONE IN PORT OF SPAIN

TROOPS surrounding the state television centre held by Muslim rebels in Trinidad attacked the building and set it on fire yesterday morning when the guerrillas inside tried to escape from an annex. "They were trying to get out", Colonel Ralph Brown, army chief of operations, said. Mortar and gunfire, the worst since the coup attempt began on Friday night, were heard throughout Port of Spain, the capital, which was under curfew.

Part of the television station caught fire, sending dense black smoke over the city. Sporadic gunfire continued later in the day.

Colonel Brown said that rebel leader, Yasin Abu-Bakr, whose Jamaat al-Muslimeen seized the television centre and the parliament building, was still inside the television building.

The Prime Minister, Arthur Robinson, aged 63, and nineteen members of the legislature were still being held hostage in the parliament building about a mile from the television centre.

Soldiers manning a checkpoint near the television centre said troops had come under fire from within the building.

The fighting came after a night punctuated by automatic weapons fire and after a government announcement that the dusk-to-dawn curfew would be extended from 6am to midday.

The curfew extension from a total of 12 hours a day to 18 hours was apparently aimed at preventing more looting. Banks were ordered to stay closed.

Talks with the rebels appeared to be stalled yesterday. "We are going to examine all reasonable options for a peaceful solution", Herbert Atwell, the energy minister, said in a radio address on Sunday night.

"I am in no position to offer any hope that the situation will be resolved speedily and/or amicably", he said. "The situation in parliament remains a touch-and-go one."

The besieged rebels sounded more confident and their spokesman, Akwesi Atiba, said by telephone from the parliament building: "We think the army we are not seeing eye-to-eye on are minor. We hope we can tie them down before long."

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Libya accused, page 11

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## Solicitors criticised

A firm of City solicitors failed to give Guinness the "Rolls-Royce service" it was entitled to during the company's £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers, the fraud trial at Southwark crown court, south London, was told yesterday.

Richard Ferguson, QC, defending Ernest Saunders, former Guinness chairman, told the jury that the prosecution witness Anthony Salz, senior partner in the firm of Freshfields, said he warned Guinness that if it entered into a bid costs agreement with Distillers "there was a risk for them of criminal liability". Mr Saunders told the court that the warning was not given. Page 3

## Church killings

Liberian government troops were reported to have massacred 200 civilians, mostly women and children. They were the victims of an apparently tribally-based killing rampage by President Samuel Doe's troops in a Monrovia church compound. Page 9

## Tanks in Peking

Tanks are reappearing on the streets of Peking, according to US diplomats and residents. The Chinese government prepares for the Asian Games, to be held in the city in September. Page 9

## Slowing down

Manufacturers are inserting tamper-proof technology in fast cars to deter enthusiasts who soup up fast cars by reprogramming computer chips. Pages 18, 19

## Tunnel death

The safety record of the Channel tunnel construction was strongly criticised by the Health and Safety Executive after the seventh fatal accident on the British side of the tunnel. Page 24

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## The murder of Ian Gow

## Friends and foes pay tribute to a man of honour and principle

By RICHARD FORD  
AND EDWARD GORMAN

IAN Gow's fiercest opponents yesterday joined his friends in praising his integrity and in condemning the terrorist bomb attack that killed him.

Politicians from the left and right in Britain and from nationalist and Unionist parties in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic paid tribute to an MP who was a loyal supporter of the prime minister and one of the few at Westminster who took a keen interest in the affairs of Ulster.

They highlighted his strong principles, urbanity and good humour as qualities which had won him friendship and respect which would be missed in the House of Commons.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister, described Mr Gow as one of the most courageous, warm-hearted and respected politicians of his generation. "Ian Gow was one of my closest friends ever since he first campaigned with me more than 30 years ago. Since then



Brooke delivering his tribute yesterday



Paisley yesterday: The killing was "diabolical"



Kinnock: "No one could doubt Gow's sincerity"



Hume: "Appalling death of an honourable man"

his circle of Commons' friends and admirers has spread to every part of the House of Commons and, indeed, of the British Isles."

Condemning the killing, the home secretary, David Waddington, said: "Coming hard on the heels of last week's outrage in Armagh, we see another vile attack by the IRA. It almost beggars belief that such depraved people should be walking the streets of our country." They have killed a

man of courage, who was never afraid to speak his mind; they have struck at free speech and democracy."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-general, a close friend, said: "He was a great friend to many people and a great friend to the island of Ireland. He was fearless in his opinions, he was a Unionist but he loved the whole of Ireland."

Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, said: "This is a

terrible atrocity against a man whose only offence was to speak his mind. "No one could be daunted by these murderers. I had great disagreements with Ian Gow and he with me, but no one could doubt his sincerity or his courage and it is appalling that he should lose his life because of these qualities."

"His killers proved their weakness in the face of democracy, not their strength. "All democrats will send

their sincere sympathies to his family."

Kevin McNamara, shadow Northern Ireland secretary, said Mr Gow would be missed on both sides of the Commons.

"He was a man of integrity, who had the highest offices in his grasp, was a close friend of the prime minister but resigned on an issue of principle. He could laugh at himself, was well informed and always courteous."

Paddy Ashdown, leader of

the Liberal Democrats, said he and his colleagues had been sickened by a desperate act that was aimed at silencing the talks taking place between the British and Irish governments and the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland.

In Northern Ireland, Peter Brooke, the Ulster secretary, delivered a short tribute to Mr Gow on the steps of Stormont Castle. He said that freedom and free speech were the enemy of those who live by the bomb and the bullet.

"Those who serve Northern Ireland know the dangers," he said. "Ian knew them as well as any, but in serving the province, he in particular served it as part of the United Kingdom, and it is the United Kingdom which the terrorists have made stronger in this sadness."

John Hume, leader of the SDLP, said: "This is an appalling murder of a decent and honourable man. Ian Gow held strong Unionist views, views which he was entitled to hold. It underlines the essential racism of the

IRA that they murder him because 'he holds different political views'."

He said the IRA's campaign was futile, out of date, and going nowhere. Its members knew that, but there was not one among them who had the moral courage to admit it and say "stop", Mr Hume added.

James Molyneux, the Ulster Unionist party leader, described Mr Gow as a close personal friend whose death was a savage blow to all in the province, Roman Catholic and Protestant, who want Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom.

"It wasn't just that he was pro-union, he had a deep understanding of the realities which very few people at Westminster do have," Mr Molyneux said. "He was never taken in by any of this nonsense of political initiatives going to lead to peace, stability and reconciliation — he saw through the Anglo-Irish agreement from day one."

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists,

described the killing as a "diabolical murder" which again showed the depths to which the IRA would sink in order to achieve their nefarious ends. He said the time had come for the Government to cease making speeches and take decisive and effective action.

In the Irish Republic, Charles Haughey, the prime minister, described Mr Gow as an honourable man who had a deep concern for the problems of Northern Ireland and about Anglo-Irish relations. He said: "We might differ in our views on aspects of Anglo-Irish relations but I always recognised in him a man of honour, of integrity and of deep conviction."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said the murder was another sickening twist in the spiral of violence. "I pray that God will bring comfort to Ian Gow's wife and family, and that all the people of the UK and Ireland will condemn this monstrous affront to the democratic way of life."

## Second MP's life is claimed for being close to Thatcher

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

IAN Gow, like Airey Neave, paid with his life for his closeness to the prime minister. There are few people in politics whose death would cause her such personal upset. He shared her views in almost every particular and she could unburden herself to him as she could to few others. She continued to do so even after he had left her government over a disagreement on Ulster policy.

Mr Gow was first recommended to Mrs Thatcher by Airey Neave, the first MP killed by republican terrorists, having served in his opposition Northern Ireland team. The prime minister would have dearly loved to have had Mr Gow back in her government. It was only his implacable opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement that prevented his recall.

Mr Gow, who was Mrs Thatcher's parliamentary private secretary from 1979 to 1983, was probably the best "eyes and ears" she ever had. He was with her through the rough times of the early 1980s and she said yesterday that she did not know how she would have survived them without him. When MPs coined the sobriquet "supergrass" for him, it bore no sinister overtones. It was merely recognition of his complete penetration of the Commons network. Keeping long hours, friendly and approachable to all, the softly-spoken Mr Gow developed a formidable intelligence service.

He was the archetypal Commons tea-room man and in his time as a PPS was the most assiduous of backbench committee attenders. Afterwards, there would be a Gow arm on the elbow of an aggrieved MP or party official, steering his quarry away from a quiet drink and a heart-to-heart. After a Commons vote, he would be in the lobby rounding up a loiterer or two with whom to stir the tea leaves or a White Lady.

Few MPs have developed such authority without being in government as he enjoyed in those days, although his opposition to the Northern Ireland bill promoted by Jim Prior led to complaints that the prime minister was fomenting rebellion against a measure promoted by one of her own ministers. On that occasion, Mr Gow was ordered to desist.

Ian Gow's personal standing was demonstrated when he was backing a private bill providing for the development of Eastbourne harbour in 1980. Nearly 200 Tories, including the prime minister, stayed up unwhipped until after 6am to hear him speak and vote for the bill.

A doctor's son, Ian Gow went to Winchester and did national service in the 15th/19th Hussars, rising to the rank of major in spite of a

propensity for disabling military vehicles. As a solicitor, he was a partner in the top-drawer Joynton-Hicks and Company, a firm with a Dickensian name to match his dress and bearing.

When he ceased to be a PPS in 1983, he stepped straight into the government as a minister of state for housing and then at the Treasury before his feelings on the Anglo-Irish agreement led to his resignation in 1985. Unlike other unhorsed ministers, he remained loyal to the prime minister and was sometimes seen as an unofficial voice of the government, parading opinions that ministers wanted to air but did not dare articulate themselves.

A tough pompous in manner, old-fashioned in style, Ian Gow could wound in his silky disruption of the opposition. But his gentle mockery could be directed against himself as well. Making the first full speech to a televised House of Commons (a development he had opposed) he suggested in responding to the Queen's Speech last November that he looked like the late Dr Bodkin Adams, who used to contribute a fiver to the Gow fighting fund at each election.

He joked at his own expense about advice he had been sent about improving his bald, bespectacled appearance for the cameras. Characteristically he included this passage: "I also welcome the commitment in the Gracious Speech to defeating terrorism in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Europe. We should send a message from this place, to friend and foe alike, that our resolve will never weaken, that those who choose the bullet and the bomb will gain no concessions from her majesty's government and that their campaign of terror is as odious as it is futile. Terrorism flourishes where those who perpetrate it believe that one day terror will triumph. That is why all of us

need to give no hint that it ever will."

He knew that he was a potential IRA target because Northern Ireland affairs were the constant thread running through his career. A staunch pro-unionist, and chairman of the Tory backbench Northern Ireland committee, he was always quick to condemn terrorist killings and to complain about Ireland's failure to extradite alleged IRA terrorists. He said the republic was perceived as a safe haven.

Mr Gow attempted to introduce a bill to end remission for terrorists last year when the IRA bomber Gerard Kelly was released for good behaviour, having served only half of a five-year sentence in the Maze prison. Last week he called on the Director of Public Prosecutions to act if Granada Television continued to refuse to disclose the identity of a man interviewed for *World in Action* who claimed to be responsible for the Birmingham pub bombings in 1974.

When he resigned on the night in November 1985 the Anglo-Irish agreement was signed, Mr Gow said he could not accept the involvement of a "foreign power" in the administration of the province.

After resigning, he joined the late John Biggs-Davison in founding the Friends of the Union, a pressure group involving politicians and opinion-formers at Westminster and in Northern Ireland. But it was typical of his sea-green incorruptibility that he then upset his friends among the Ulster unionists by lending his support to the campaign for Conservative candidates to stand in Northern Ireland seats, saying national parties should fight once again came before convenience.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 12  
Leading article, page 13



Ian Gow relaxing with his pets last year at his home in Hankham, East Sussex, and (below) at Downing Street with Mrs Thatcher in 1983 and celebrating with his wife after a parachute jump with the Red Devils.



## Increase in manpower fails to foil IRA activities

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE counter-terrorist war against the IRA is absorbing more resources than at any time in the past. Yet in spite of a doubling in manpower in some areas, improved co-ordination between agencies and a "large element of luck" in a number of recent cases, nobody is in any doubt that the IRA will continue to be able to pick and choose victims in its latest campaign.

On the mainland, IRA active service units with city addresses can come and go without the rigorous surveillance they face in Northern Ireland. The same is true on the Continent,

where at least three IRA units have been operating over the past two years.

There is also one key element that has made the tracking of IRA terrorists more difficult: it has become clear that sympathisers outside the province have been prepared to become involved in operations, rather than merely supplying the odd safe house.

A recent case involving a Dutch girl living with a member of an IRA unit took the security authorities by surprise. In Britain, there was the case of Nicholas Mullen, a dealer in electronic equipment who was jailed for 30 years after being convicted in June of conspiracy to cause explosions. He was one of the

IRA's key logistics men in Britain, but he was not of IRA stock.

Countering the IRA on the mainland, in Northern Ireland and on the Continent involves three separate intelligence operations. The most important factor, and possibly the weak element, is that different agencies take the lead for the three areas of responsibility.

In Northern Ireland, the Royal Ulster Constabulary special branch, supported by army intelligence units, MI5 and MI6, is responsible for anti-IRA intelligence gathering. The security service, MI5, has teams there involved in both intelligence assessment and intelligence-gathering, with officers attached to the Northern Ireland Office, the RUC headquarters and the army headquarters at Lisburn.

A senior MI5 officer is the director and co-ordinator of intelligence in Northern Ireland.

MI6, the secret intelligence service, has only a small contingent in Ulster and all the officers are seconded to MI5. The MI5 director and co-ordinator is responsible for seeing that the intelligence agencies get on together.

The success of the counter-terrorist operations in Ulster is vital not just for dealing with the IRA in the province, but also for spreading the net to catch active service units on the mainland and the Continent. However, information about attacks gleaned by the RUC can be handled most easily if they involve targets in Northern Ireland.

The main IRA protagonists in the province are known to

be in west Belfast, Londonderry and South Armagh. They can be watched. If the RUC information relates to a possible attack in the south of England, there is no comparable operation that can be instantly mounted.

The intelligence set-up on the mainland is different. The lead agency is the Metropolitan Police special branch. Set up in 1983 to deal with the Fenians, it has continued to retain prime responsibility for intelligence-gathering against the IRA on the mainland.

MI5 is beginning to build up its manpower devoted to studying and countering the IRA, switching resources from counter-subversion and counter-espionage, but its responsibility on the mainland is for all other types of terrorism, gathering intelligence against

Middle Eastern groups and other terrorist organisations.

However, MI5 is responsible for countering IRA terrorism abroad, including the Republic of Ireland. In that capacity, it is helped by MI6 agents based abroad. Co-ordination between the lead agencies is apparently good and they have regular meetings. When the RUC picks up information that has a bearing on a possible IRA operation on the Continent, it is passed on to MI5. If MI5 receives intelligence abroad about a possible attack in the British mainland, it is duly passed to Scotland Yard. Insiders claim that criticism of bad co-ordination between services is out of date. Nevertheless, it could be argued that the agencies' resources should overlap to a far greater extent.

## Potential targets can never feel secure

By MICHAEL EVANS

IT IS dangerous for anyone considered a potential IRA target to feel secure at any time. That is one of the penalties of leading a public life, especially if associated with Northern Ireland.

Lord Mountbatten was killed in August 1979 in a part of Ireland he loved and where he felt secure. In Ian Gow's case, his name had appeared on an IRA death list headed by the prime minister, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, the head of MI5, the director of GCHQ and the chairman of the Cabinet Office's joint intelligence committee were also listed.

Those on the list and others likely to face possible attack have been given specific advice by the police on the level and type of personal vigilance required. Since 1971, the IRA has targeted a wide range of individuals.

High Fraser, the late Conservative MP, was the intended victim of a car bomb attack on October 23, 1975. However, the device planned outside his London home killed Gordon Hamilton Fairley, a leading cancer surgeon. That same year, two IRA gunmen shot and killed Ross McWhirter, joint editor of the *Guinness Book of Records* who had offered a £50,000 reward for information that would lead to the capture of IRA terrorists.

On July 22, 1976, a bomb exploded under the car of Sir Christopher Ewart-Biggs, British ambassador in Dublin, killing him and a secretary. On March 22, 1979, Sir Richard Sykes, British ambassador to The Netherlands, was shot dead in The Hague by IRA gunmen. Eight days later Airey Neave, the Conservative MP and close associate of Margaret Thatcher, was killed by a car bomb.

On August 27, 1979, Lord Mountbatten, aged 79, died when a bomb ripped apart his boat off co Sligo. Two members of his family and a young boatman were also killed. In 1981, Sir Norman Stronge, aged 86, the former Stormont speaker, was killed. Later that year, Sir Stuart Pringle, commandant-general of the Royal Marines, was badly hurt by a car bomb.

In 1983, a letter bomb campaign was launched. Bombs sent to Mrs Thatcher, Sir John Nott, former defence secretary, and George Younger, the Scottish secretary, were defused. However, a device sent to Norman Tebbit exploded, damaging a desk.

The prime minister missed death by minutes on October 12, 1984, when a bomb devastated the Grand hotel, Brighton, during the Conservative party conference. Five people died, including Sir Anthony Berry, MP.

In 1985, Northern Ireland's second most senior judge, Lord Justice Gibson, and his wife were killed by a bomb on the Irish border as they returned from holiday. In July 1988, a bomb intended for Mr Justice Higgins killed a couple and their son aged 6 on the same road. In October 1988, Brian Armour, vice-chairman of the Northern Ireland Prison Officers' Association, was killed by a car bomb.

Last month a bomb damaged the former Hampshire home of Lord McAlpine, a former Conservative treasurer.

He said their action was astonishing and condemned it as "complicity in the murders". The producers had failed to fulfil a duty which would be carried out by any decent citizen, he said.

On July 3, Mr Gow's appointment as chairman of the Airey Neave Trust was announced.

## TV attack on terrorists six days ago

IN a strongly-worded television interview six days ago, Ian Gow attacked the IRA and vowed: "We will never, never surrender." He said last Wednesday that the killings of a nun and three policemen in Ulster were "odious and futile."

"Once again women have been turned into widows and children to orphans, for what purpose? There can be no purpose. One of the awful things about today's murders is that there is a kind of perverted purposelessness about those who have done this."

"The message that should go out from all decent people — and 99 per cent of people in Northern Ireland and 99 per

cent of people in Great Britain are decent people — is that we will never, never surrender to people like this."

"There is a lesson to be learnt: what would happen to Northern Ireland if people like this were allowed to have their way?"

Asked whether he felt the IRA's bombing campaign was reaching a climax he said it was hard to see a pattern. He was heartened that the numbers killed so far this year were less than last year.

He praised the intelligence service and said its agents were "doing their work to the utmost. I have only praise for our

intelligence service in the province." The previous day he called for legal action against the producers of Granada Television's *World in Action* programme for an anonymous interview with a man claiming to have carried out the Birmingham pub bombings which killed 21 people.

He said their action was astonishing and condemned it as "complicity in the murders". The producers had failed to fulfil a duty which would be carried out by any decent citizen, he said.

On July 3, Mr Gow's appointment as chairman of the Airey Neave Trust was announced.



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American  
jailed for  
drug plot  
is cleared

husband jail  
for attempt



## The Guinness case

## Solicitors failed to give 'Rolls-Royce service', jury told

A LEADING firm of City solicitors failed to give Guinness the "Rolls-Royce service" it was entitled to during the company's £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers, the fraud trial at Southwark crown court, south London, was told yesterday.

It was "incomprehensible" that Freshfields solicitors took no notes during an important meeting with top people in the company when Guinness was allegedly warned that it risked breaking the law, Richard Ferguson, QC, said.

Mr Ferguson, defending Ernest Saunders, former Guinness chairman, told the jury that the prosecution witness Anthony Salz, senior partner in Freshfields, said in his evidence that if it entered into a bid costs agreement with Distillers "there was a risk for them of criminal liability". Mr Saunders told the court that the warning was not given. If it

had, everyone would have "run a mile", he said. The fee paid to Freshfields for its UK work for Guinness during 1986 was nearly £2 million.

"If you are being paid fees of that order you would be entitled to Rolls-Royce service," he said. The truth about that warning was either that Mr Salz never said it or it was said in such a "wishy-washy manner" that it was virtually meaningless.

Mr Saunders, Gerald Ronson, head of Heron International, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, a financier, deny 22 counts alleging theft, fraud and breaches of the Companies Act during the Distillers takeover. They are accused of participating in a share support operation intended artificially to enhance the value of Guinness shares.

Mr Ferguson challenged the evidence of Howard Hughes, senior Price Waterhouse accountant. The prosecution

in the way Mr Hughes recollects that it happened.

Mr Ferguson said that at one stage Mr Hughes said Price Waterhouse had not been given any reason to believe Mr Roux was dishonest and "in the same breath" mentioned six occasions when Mr Roux may have caused the accountants to be "seriously misled". He said Mr Hughes "saw that Olivier Roux was the flavour of the month and he just didn't have the courage to speak out and tell the truth".

Mr Ferguson accused the prosecution of trying to ambush Mr Saunders with the suggestion that he had intended to keep £3 million of a £5.2 million alleged success fee to Tom Ward, a former Guinness director. John Chadwick, QC, for the prosecution, had waited until the 73rd day of the trial to make the allegation. That was unfair, Mr Ferguson said.

The court had been told that the money was paid into Mr Saunders' Swiss bank account and then repaid to an account, controlled by Mr Ward. In evidence, Mr Saunders said that Mr Ward had asked him to borrow the account temporarily for his client's funds.

Mr Ferguson claimed that the prosecution, who did not allege that any of the £5.2 million had "stuck" to Mr Saunders, would not have known about the bank account if Mr Saunders had not volunteered the information to the Department of Trade.

He dismissed the prosecution's suggestion that Mr Saunders must have known about false invoices which were used to hide allegedly illegal success fees and indemnities paid out as part of the share support scheme.

Mr Ferguson, at the close of his speech, urged the jury to restore to Mr Saunders "the one thing which he can recoup" — his reputation. The trial continues today.

## American jailed for drug plot is cleared

AN AMERICAN businessman given an 18-year prison sentence in 1988 for alleged involvement in a Mafia-backed plot to flood Britain with cocaine was cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court ruled that there had been serious irregularities in the trial at the Central Criminal Court of John O'Boyle, aged 50, of Detroit. Mr O'Boyle, a heavy machinery importer jailed in November 1988 for conspiracies to import and supply cocaine, had his convictions quashed and sentence set aside.

Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Tucker, said that Mr O'Boyle's defence had been seriously prejudiced by the trial judge's refusal to order that he be tried separately from a co-accused, David Rafferty, who claimed that he was in fear of O'Boyle.

The trial judge had also wrongly threatened to have Mr O'Boyle brought forcibly into court after he refused to return to the witness box to be cross-examined about admissions he was alleged to have made in America to drugs enforcement agents.

Lord Lane said the judge "could have taken steps to punish him for contempt; he could have continued the trial in his absence. The threat of force was not proper."

He said: "It was not in these circumstances a proper exercise of the judge's power and duty to control proceedings in his court and was, in our judgment, a serious irregularity."

Mr O'Boyle had been tried after the arrest in Essex in 1987 of David Medin, also American, who had in his possession cocaine valued at £10 million and who had named Mr O'Boyle as being in a conspiracy to import the drug.



O'Boyle: freed from an 18-year prison sentence

## Skipper denies he was drunk

THE skipper of a cargo ship was so drunk he steered his vessel on to rocks after leaving harbour, it was alleged yesterday. The 2,500 tonne Maltese-registered Bonita ran aground at the mouth of the harbour at Fowey, Cornwall, last October with a cargo of 2,000 tonnes of china clay.

The harbour pilot, Captain Kenneth Guy, had earlier set the skipper on course for the open sea and left the ship, but then saw her turn sharply to the right, Andrew Chubb, for the prosecution, said.

After the Bonita ran aground, Mr Guy returned to her and found the Finnish skipper, Captain Kalevo Puskala, aged 45, "alone and confused" on the bridge. Mr Chubb told Truro Crown Court. Earlier, the mate, who had allegedly seen Mr Puskala drinking beer in his cabin, realised that she was heading for the rocks and ran to the bridge. He found Mr Puskala there but was too late to do anything, Mr Chubb said.

After the grounding, Mr Puskala went to his cabin and drank vodka until he was very drunk, the court was told. The ship was refloated the next day.

Mr Puskala has denied operating steering or navigating gear while drunk, failing to stop the ship running ashore because he was drunk and failing to preserve people on board from death or serious injury because he was drunk. The trial continues today.

## Acid attack man faces new checks

A MAN who yesterday admitted spraying 15 women with acid in the street, is being questioned about similar attacks on 47 women travelling on the London Underground last year.

The Central Criminal Court was told yesterday that Terence Goodhew, aged 33, who is said to have an obsession with women's bottoms, carried the substance, which contains hydrochloric acid, in a cola can. He crept up behind women in the street and threw the acid over their buttocks and legs.

At first the victims, including a girl aged 10, thought cola had been spilt on them. However, the acid, normally used as an industrial cleaner, would seep through their clothing and cause painful burns.

Goodhew, of Forest Gate, east London, pleaded guilty to 15 charges of unlawfully and maliciously administering a noxious substance. He also admitted a further charge of indecent assault. The attacks were carried out in east London from April 21-24 this year.

The defendant, who is described as suffering from a psychotic disorder, was remanded in custody for medical reports. After the hearing, Det Sergeant Malcolm Jeffery said that Goodhew is being interviewed by transport police about similar attacks on women travelling on the Underground last December.

## Husband jailed for three years for attempt to rape his wife

A HUSBAND was jailed yesterday for trying to rape his wife after a judge made legal history by ruling that the man could stand trial for the offence because the couple were not living together.

The case was the first in England and Wales in which a husband was accused of attempting to rape his wife even though they were not legally separated, nor was there a court order prohibiting him from molesting her.

The man, aged 37, who cannot be named, was jailed for three years at Leicester Crown Court after he admitted the attack on his wife, from whom he was living apart. His plea of not guilty to rape was accepted by the Crown. The case challenged a 1736 law which said that marriage implied consent to sexual intercourse and a husband could not be accused of rape.

Mr Justice Owen said it was

idiotic that a wife, at any time, should be required by law to submit to rape. He said: "I find it hard to believe that it ever was the common law that a husband was entitled to beat his wife into submission and sexual intercourse. If it ever was, it is a sad commentary on law and on judges."

The judge said the wife had clearly indicated to her husband that she did not want to have sexual relations with him again. She had moved out of their house at October. At Leicester last October, Mr Justice Owen said the "implied consent" of marriage had been terminated by their agreement to live apart.

After the ruling, John Milmo, QC, for the prosecution, said the defendant, aged 37, had broken into his wife's parents home last November and attacked her. He had ripped her clothing and put his hands around her neck before

threatening to kill her. Graham Buchanan, for the defence, said that the husband had gone to the house to try to persuade his wife to come back to him.

The husband was given a three-year sentence for attempted rape and 18 months for assault causing actual bodily harm, the sentences to run concurrently.

An attempt to ask the House of Lords to restore the conviction of a police constable cleared of raping a teenage girl in his panda car was rejected by Court of Appeal yesterday.

Peter Anderson, aged 41, was cleared and freed from a seven-year jail sentence by the appeal court earlier this month because of the failure of the trial judge to emphasise his previous good character. The officer, who was based at Surbiton in southwest London, admitted sexual intercourse but denied rape.



Aiming high: Patrick Bell, aged 36, from Co Derry, Northern Ireland, limbering up yesterday for the archery competition at the World Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Games at the Gutterman Sports Centre, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

## Guy's hospital votes to become self governing

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

GUY'S hospital in south London, a flagship for the government's health service reforms, applied yesterday to become a self governing trust after consultants voted in favour of the scheme.

The consultants, who have been divided on whether to go self governing, were the only doctors in the country who secured an agreement with the hospital management that they could have a veto on whether the hospital should become a trust next April.

A poll of 224 consultants at Guy's and at Lewisham hospital, southeast London, which will be included in the trust, showed that 64 per cent were in favour of opting out and 36 per cent against. Within an hour of the vote, hospital managers submitted an application for self governing status to the health department.

However, 67 per cent of the consultants in the poll, which had a 90 per cent turnout, thought that the health service changes were not in the best interests of health care compared with 15 per cent who thought that they were.

Guy's, which has adopted a high profile since the reforms were announced last year, has already had two casualties over the issue. Peter Griffiths, now deputy chief executive of the National Health Service, resigned from a part-time post as shadow executive of the trust when it became clear the authority would vote him out last year. More recently, Elaine Murphy, the district general manager of Lewisham and North Southwark health authority, resigned because she felt that the reforms would not protect local services.

The poll by the hospital's medical and dental committee followed two earlier ballots on

the issue. Earlier this year 4,650 staff at the hospital voted three to one against opting out of health authority control; a second ballot of local GPs showed that 87 per cent were against the idea, with almost half of the GPs threatening to reduce referrals if it went ahead.

Last night consultants who opposed trust status said that doctors had been persuaded that the hospital would be financially better off if it opted out. Professor Rodney Grahame, a consultant rheumatologist, said that doctors had been misguided in their vote. "They perceive that the hospital will get more money if it becomes a first wave trust. There have been rumours and innuendoes that it would be in the hospital's interest."

Professor Grahame fears that the hospital's financial situation will become worse because of an inability to attract patients, and essential services would be sacrificed for high technology services which could be sold to the private sector and overseas.

Dr Robin Stott, chairman of the group which set up the application, said: "The outcome of the ballot demonstrates our consultants' belief that under the new NHS act, NHS trust status offers the best way to provide the service we want for our patients."

Dr Stott said that the application would be based on certain principles which would be set out in the trust's charter. These would include ensuring that National Health Service treatment was free to all patients, providing a high quality service to all local residents; continuing teaching and research; retaining existing terms and conditions for staff, and working in collaboration with GPs.

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# Airport crushes keep out half a million Japanese tourists

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

HALF a million Japanese tourists are unable to visit Britain because airport overcrowding in Tokyo and London has led to a shortage of seats between the cities, tour operators and airlines say.

The four airlines which serve the cities could fill twice the number of seats on the 33 flights a week that operate on the route. They say, however, that a shortage of takeoff and landing slots at Narita airport in Tokyo and at Gatwick and Heathrow prevents them from putting on more flights.

Last year, almost 500,000 Japanese tourists came to Britain, spending £245 million, compared with 205,000 in 1986. Nearly half were young women, known as "office ladies", in Japan, who earn high salaries, live with their parents and are being encouraged to travel before getting married.

If sufficient capacity existed at the main Japanese airports the

number could rise to a million, Japanese tour operators have told the airlines.

Chris Moss of Virgin Atlantic, whose Gatwick to Tokyo service began a year ago, said: "We are now restricted to four flights a week but could fill two flights a day. The British and Japanese governments have agreed that we can put on additional capacity but that will only be possible once we can find extra slots at both ends of the

route." With more than 40,000 Japanese resident in Britain, business travellers between the two countries are becoming desperate to find a seat. One Tokyo company offered to block book all Virgin's business class seats for a year; a request that was rejected.

All Nippon Airways (ANA) is having to open up new services to Paris to cater for the high demand for European travel. "More than 95 per cent of our passengers originate

in Japan and with the growing number of Japanese companies setting up in London there is tremendous pressure on our business class as well as from the tourists," Mr Shinobu Hasegawa, of ANA, said.

The growth in demand from Japan has led to the creation of a committee of the British Tourist Authority, headed by Lady Spencer, to try to improve facilities for them. "We expect the number of

Japanese tourists to increase to at least a million by 1992," Mr Mel Montgomery, of the British Tourist Authority, said. "Most of them seem to be what we in the trade call 'OLs', or office ladies, and this has meant that we must be careful to cater for their special needs."

The projects being launched for the Japanese include special shopping areas in many of the favourite venues such as Harrods, Selfridges and Burberry's and courses on

flower arranging and serving genuine English tea. "It seems to improve their marriage prospects when they return to Japan if they understand the English culture," Mr Montgomery said.

Japan Airlines, which operates 12 London-Tokyo flights a week, has received approval for a further four. "The problem is that with no new slots at Narita airport we can only use them if we juggle with those that we do have to create additional space," the airline said.

British Airways, with 13 flights a week, has the highest number of services between London and Tokyo. It has approval to put on another four a week and is now planning to operate direct to other cities such as Osaka and Nagoya to avoid the crush at Narita.

By 1993 a £7 billion airport capable of handling 160,000 flights a year will be built offshore at Kansai and, it is hoped, will finally enable the tide of would-be Japanese tourists to achieve their ambition to visit Britain.

## £10m runway for Shetland may stop Shell move

A NEW £10 million runway to replace the strip at Sumburgh, Shetland, may be built by Highlands and Islands Airports, it was disclosed yesterday (Kerry Gill writes).

The plan may persuade Shell to continue using the airport instead of moving its operations to Unst, where journeys between a beach strip and the oil company's North Sea installations take half an hour less. The scheme is at an early stage and outside investment would be needed. Another carrot dangled before Shell has

been to cut passenger landing costs from £15 a head to £10, saving it £750,000 a year.

Robert Crawford, airport company chairman, said: "We are doing our utmost in trying to make Sumburgh not just Shell's only choice, but a desirable one. A new runway at Sumburgh would be a major exercise requiring some filling in of the sea."

However, he added: "We have to look at this with the expected change in the type of aircraft used over the next few years. If a study proved it

should go ahead, then it would take at least five years before it was ready for use."

Mr Crawford also gave a warning of possible job cuts if Dan-Air withdraws its Inverness-Manchester-Gatwick service. It is due to end on October 27, despite protests by business interests and Highland MPs.

The airport company also announced that it is to spend more than £16.5 million over the next five years on its airports, including more than £7 million at Inverness.

## Court ruling stops council issuing new poll tax bills

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday carried out its threat to use the law to compel charge capped councils to pass on the effects of spending cuts to poll tax payers.

Chris Patten, the environment secretary, was granted a High Court injunction stopping Haringey council in north London from sending out revised poll tax bills. Although the Labour council cut its £206.5 million budget by £10 million, it refused to implement a corresponding cut in its £573 poll tax.

The council reduced the bill to £536 instead of the £508 set by the government. The council said that its original estimate that it would collect 95 per cent of poll tax had proved over-optimistic and it substituted a figure of 90 per cent.

Mr Justice Kennedy gave Mr Patten leave to seek a judicial review of the council's decision to ignore the government poll tax guideline. A full hearing of the case will take place before the end of August.

The judge said that there was an overwhelming case in favour of granting an injunction. It was common-sense that it would be unsatisfactory to present charge payers with three different bills. He said that it was a matter which "cried out" for expedition. He was satisfied that there was

quite clearly an arguable point. He refused to appropriate the council's application for a cross-undertaking in damages.

Although the 1988 Local Government Finance Act gives ministers the power to specify only the level of spending for capped councils, Mr Patten has made it clear that he believes the law also requires councils to reflect reduced spending by cuts in charges.

Ian Willmore, Haringey council's finance chairman, said after the hearing that the council was still confident that its case would succeed at the full hearing. "If the secretary of state is right, it would only add to poll tax payers' bills next year as well as making the council's financial management more difficult."

David Blunkett, shadow local government minister, said that the ruling served to

prolong the chaos and confusion caused by poll tax-capping. "The secretary of state is now seeking to increase his powers so that he can impose poll tax levels as well as budget levels on local councils," Mr Blunkett said.

"His actions appear to be motivated by political spite rather than any genuine concern for poll tax payers in the areas affected."

● A man was sentenced to three months' youth custody yesterday for using threatening behaviour during the Trafalgar Square poll tax riot in March.

Craig Rihoy, aged 20, unemployed, of Chaplin Road, Bristol, denied the charge and said that he had not been involved in the rioting. He had been bailed for reports that they had seen him throw a missile, possibly a brick, towards police lines.

## £3m student games cash plea rejected

By PETER DAVENPORT

CHRIS Patten, the environment secretary, yesterday paid his first visit to the £147 million sports and housing facilities being built for next year's World Student Games in Sheffield.

Although he paid tribute to the effort that had gone into preparing for the event, he dashed the city council's hopes that more government funds would be made available. The government has provided £10 million through city grants, the urban programme and derelict land grants. A further £20 million has been committed to housing projects associated with the games. The Sports Council is providing £3 million for the event.

Sheffield city council, which was given sole responsibility for the project when Unilever GB, the organising company, was wound down earlier this year, wants Mr Patten to give another £3 million towards the refurbishment of a block of flats as part of the

athletes' village. Yesterday, however, Mr Patten said: "We have committed £20 million for housing projects. We don't have plans to put in any more."

The £147 million facilities will accommodate the largest sports event to be held in this country, catering for about 6,000 athletes and officials from 120 nations next July. The organisation of the games has been dogged by management disputes and financial uncertainties. The chief executive of Unilever was dismissed and the company was wound down after it accrued heavy debts but failed to secure the television coverage that was vital to attracting major international sponsors.

The city council must raise £27 million to stage the three-week games as planned, but if it fails to attract sufficient sponsorship, a scaled down event could be held for £17 million.

## Campaign on Rushdie switches to embassy

By RUTH GLEDHILL,  
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

A VIGIL held outside the Saudi Arabian embassy in London yesterday calling for the Saudis to ban *The Satanic Verses* was the first of many, Muslim leaders said.

The demonstration, which included women and children in traditional Islamic dress, was timed to coincide with the start of a conference of Islamic countries in Cairo.

The silent vigil, mainly by Muslims from Bradford, represented a change in the campaign against Salman Rushdie's novel. Some British Muslims have broadened their protests to include criticisms of governments in Islamic countries that have not followed the hard line of Iran.

Mohammed Siddique, president of the Muslim Youth Movement, said: "For almost two years, the Saudi government has shown no concern over the *Satanic Verses* affair. We feel that because the Saudis are the custodians of the holy places in Islam, such as Mecca, they should at least have called for a ban and publicly condemned the book. We want to get them off the fence."

Dr Siddique said that the demonstration had been the first of many, but had been deliberately kept small. "If we had too many people, it could create problems," he said.

Sher Azam, president of the Council for Mosques in Bradford, was yesterday in Egypt to call for other Islamic countries to join Syria and Iran in banning books from Viking Penguin, Mr Rushdie's publisher.

No one in the embassy was available for comment.



Protesters against *The Satanic Verses* at the Saudi Arabian embassy yesterday

## Nuns learn problems of inner city Muslims

FIFTY Roman Catholic nuns ended a three-day visit to Bradford's Muslim community yesterday designed to increase their understanding of the difficulties facing multi-racial areas in Britain (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The nuns, from the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, visited mosques and walked through some of the most deprived areas of the West Yorkshire city. Sister Joan Faber, of Aubyn Square,

Roehampton, southwest London, described it as an effort to get to grips with injustices and poverty in our country and "the need to find an appropriate response". She added: "We did experience a considerable shaking up of our unconsciously held prejudices and stereotypes, we had our horizons opened and renewed our commitment to work with and for the poor."

The order has 5,600 members around

the world and 180 in England. They live in the community and do not wear habits. According to a report produced by the nuns yesterday, many were said that "at present, the Catholic church in Bradford only feels able to admit a small number of Muslims to our schools".

Sister Faber added: "If we are an order committed to education we have got to take into account the changing face of the country."

## Man, 30, in court after club siege

A man arrested after the ten-hour siege at the Tokyo Joe nightclub in central London, appeared in court yesterday accused of a threat to kill and false imprisonment.

Hani Elrayes, aged 30, of Edgware Road, Paddington, made a two-minute appearance at Bow Street magistrates' court. He faces five charges; two of false imprisonment, one of possessing firearms with intent to endanger life, one of making a threat to kill, and one of a bomb hoax, all dated July 29.

Sir David Hopkin, the stipendiary magistrate, remanded Elrayes in custody until August 6. No application for bail was made.

## Boat found adrift

A BOAT used by two Britons who disappeared on a fishing trip, has been found drifting empty off the Seychelles. Philip Beadle, of Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, and Norman Roberts, of Cheltenham, were reported missing on July 3 after setting off from the islands. Their 17ft boat was found on Friday. A message scrawled inside said: "Beadle, Roberts, July 1990. Mahe Seychelles, engine problems."

## Doctor guilty

Norman Sargent, a consultant anaesthetist, was given a six-month suspended prison sentence at Leeds Crown Court yesterday for the manslaughter of a mother of six during an operation. Dr Sargent, aged 68, of Marsh Gibbon, Oxfordshire, denied the manslaughter of Brenda Jones. Jurors were told that Mrs Jones, aged 55, died after she was given too much anaesthetic gas.

## WPC injured

A policewoman was injured and a dog killed yesterday as the driver of a stolen Jaguar sped through Birkenhead, Merseyside, at up to 90mph. The car was involved in five crashes, including running over the dog, before coming to a halt. The policewoman, whose car was hit in a serious condition in hospital. Police are questioning one person.



Prince Michael: passed unmarked police car on M4

## Prince Michael banned for driving at 103mph

PRINCE Michael of Kent was yesterday banned from driving after a court heard that he had overtaken an unmarked police car at over 100mph. The prince admitted exceeding the 70mph limit on the M4 in Wiltshire on April 22. He was banned for 14 days, fined £100 and ordered to pay £15 costs by magistrates at Chippenham, Wiltshire. The prince, aged 48, president of the RAC motor sports council, was allowed seven days to pay. Ian Thomas, for the prosecution, said that the prince's

## Bar merger may mark new trend

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL AFFAIRS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE first merger in recent times between two established sets of chambers at the Bar is announced today in a move aimed at making the new set fully competitive and backed by advanced technology.

The merger is the first within the Bar since "merger mania" in the solicitors' branch of the legal profession some five years ago and may herald a similar trend among chambers.

The merger is between the chambers of Ronald Walker, QC, and Julian Gibson-Waitt. The new chambers, to have 34 members and seven staff, will be known as 12 King's Bench Walk, Temple.

The move is likely to be followed by other sets. A report on the future strategy of the Bar, which is likely to be published in the autumn, is expected to recommend that chambers increase their size to at least 25 members in order to be fully competitive.

Mr Walker said: "The merger is a response to the changing climate in which we are providing legal services."

He said that a larger unit would increase the opportunity for barristers to specialise, and greater advantage could be taken of technology. The chambers already had had computerised accounts. "The next stage is electronic mail and video conferencing," Mr Walker said.

## Independents accuse BBC and ITV

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT producers have accused the BBC and ITV of attempting to "dilute and evade" the government's 25 per cent quota on independent television productions by re-categorising local programming as news and current affairs.

The Independent Programme Producers Association (IPPA) wants the Broadcasting Bill amended to allow independents to provide the BBC and ITV with news and news-related programming and has accused the BBC in particular of reducing by half the number of hours of airtime available to the independent sector.

However, recognising that ITN and the BBC look certain to retain their "exclusive news monopolies", the IPPA has called on the government to increase the quota of programmes made by independents. In the foreword to the association's annual report Michael Darlow, its chairman, said that excluding national and local news and news-related programmes on ITV reduced the 25 per cent target to 14 per cent and just under 10 per cent of ITV's programming last year came from independents. He said the BBC, where new independent productions accounted for four per cent of last year's transmissions, had effectively reduced its target to 12.5 per cent.

The association estimates that 95 per cent of the BBC's local and regional programming in England is categorised as news and current affairs, leaving 1.3 per cent for the independent producer. The association also accused the BBC of reducing its commitment to independent production of local programmes and imposing impossible conditions. "Independents outside London are routinely told, in flat contravention of

trading guidelines, that use of BBC facilities is a prior condition of discussion of any programme commission. The BBC, despite the enthusiasm of some individual department heads for commissioning independent producers, will continue to use every tactic available to evade, dilute, delay or undermine the

implementation of the 25 per cent quota," Mr Darlow said. The IPPA has welcomed the provision in the bill which requires the Office of Fair Trading to monitor the BBC's implementation of the 25 per cent quota.

● The Broadcasting Complaints Commission has ruled that Thames Television's *This Week* programme of October 26, 1989 on the disposal of toxic waste led to the unfair loss of business by the owners of a cattle farm. In the programme cattle were seen grazing in a field described as the site of a toxic dump. The cattle owners complained that the cows were not grazing on the site of the dump and that the broadcast led to a drop in sales of dairy products. The commission said it accepted that the programme was made in the public interest and that there was no intention of harming the owners.

The commission also upheld a complaint that a remark made by the presenter of BBC 2's *Food and Drink* on February 13 was unfair in referring to a recent "food scare" over heating milk in microwave ovens and identifying the source of the scare as a column in *The Sun* by Dr Vernon Coleman. The commission was satisfied that Dr Coleman was referring to the deaths that might occur, but the way his figures were quoted could have been understood as implying that he said 100,000 might die this year.

David Mellor, the arts and broadcasting minister, is to make it a criminal offence to make, import, sell or let for hire any unauthorised decoders. The civil law is also to be strengthened to stop someone who has a decoder using it to relay a service to others. The most quoted example is of someone living in a flat who transmits his service to others in the same block, but it could

have a wider application. Foreign broadcasters are to be given the right to seek damages in British courts from pirates who steal their services, even though there may not be reciprocal arrangements in foreign courts.

Mr Mellor is to bring the changes into effect through amendments to the broadcasting bill at its report stage in the Lords in early October. Jonathan Miller, Sky's public affairs director, said last night: "We are pleased that the government has accepted our arguments for more durable protection to protect those who transmit encrypted signals and we look forward to seeing the amendments in October. This should enable the industry in Britain to move forward more confidently. We are, in effect, creating video supermarkets. The new measures will enable us to install cash registers and stop the shoplifting."

Letters, page 13

## Kinnock unfit for high office, Tories say

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives yesterday began an assault on Neil Kinnock's credentials for the role of prime minister with Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, calling him quick-tempered, inexperienced and ill-suited to high office.

The attack figures prominently in a Conservative research department publication to provide ammunition for a summer campaign by Tory MPs, agents, councillors and workers against Labour's policies, its ties with the trade unions and the hard left.

The document confirmed expectations that the Conservatives will make Mr Kinnock a key target in the election campaign and prompted a sharp response from the Labour leader last night. His Westminster office said: "The Tories are an increasingly disreputable party. After a parliamentary year characterised by shoddiness and sleaze, this shabby personal attack further diminishes their reputation. Desperate tactics from a desperate government."

The document, *Labour Behind the Mask*, examines recent Labour policy statements and draws on past quotations from Labour leaders and MPs which, it says, conflict starkly with the moderate stance now presented by the party. The chapter on "Labour people" says that Mr Kinnock's "background" as a left-wing rebel and dedicated socialist make it impossible for him to sound convincing as a moderate. "His poor qualifications and repeated tantrums make him unsuitable for high office."

The document says Mr Kinnock's only experience of the workings of government was his 11-month stint as Michael Foot's parliamentary private secretary at the employment department. The report alleges that in a number of interviews Mr Kinnock "has revealed that he has a tenuous grasp of economics and an extremely short temper". His trips abroad, "have revealed even more starkly his total lack of statesmanlike qualities."

The £2 document says that Labour is still dependent on the trade unions and Labour spokesmen have supported almost every big strike in the past three years. The Tory report claims that Labour is "plagued" by its extreme left wing, with 31 MPs declaring they will not pay the poll tax, and that the policy document, *Looking to the Future*, shows that Labour would embark on a spending programme that would mean higher taxes for everyone, wreck industrial relations legislation, and wipe out choice in education.

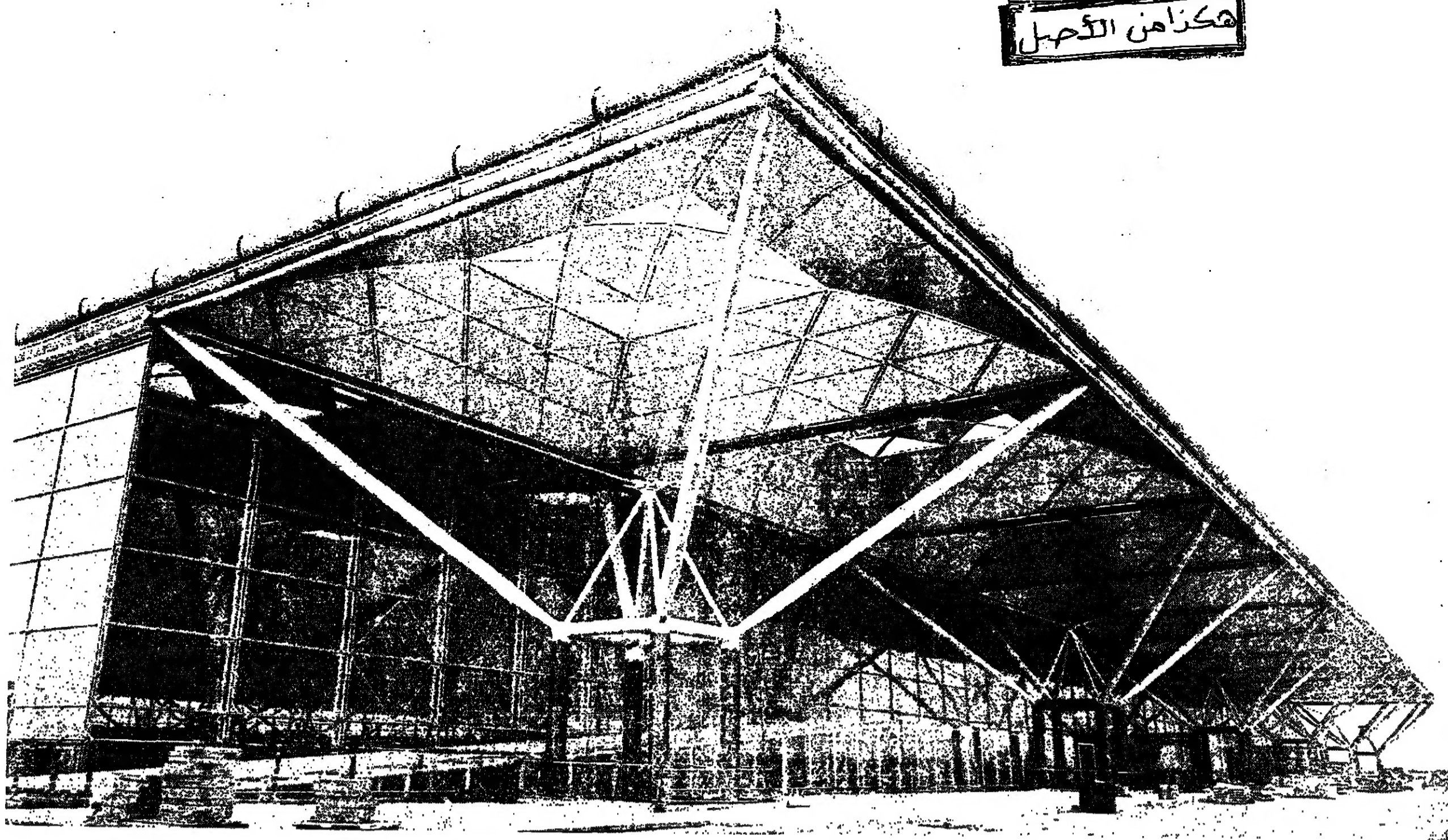
The Conservatives say that the Opposition policy prospectus included 81 uncosted spending pledges that would allow inflation to get out of control.

● The prime minister will pay an official visit to Finland from August 28, meeting President Koivisto and the prime minister, Harri Holkeri. She will then attend a meeting of the European Democratic Union alliance of conservative parties in Helsinki.



Kinnock  
unfit  
for high  
office,  
ories say

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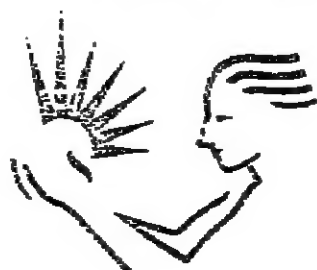




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### Man faces child killing charge

A man faces a charge of child killing after the body of a three-year-old girl was found in a ditch near her home in the north.

The girl, who was found on July 28, was the daughter of a man who has been charged with her murder.

The man, who is 35, was charged with the murder of the girl, who was found in a ditch near her home in the north.

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## New rules on control of pollution start dispute

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A DISPUTE has broken out between Britain's chemical industry and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution over a new and radically different system of pollution control for heavy industry, to be introduced next year.

The inspectorate rejects the industry's claims that it should be involved from the beginning in drawing up the new guidelines on controlling polluting industrial processes.

The Chemical Industries Association claims that it is being excluded by the inspectorate despite assurances from David Trippier, the environment minister, that it would be involved. At issue is integrated pollution control (IPC), the centrepiece of this year's

environment protection bill, whereby all emissions from an industrial plant will be examined together rather than separately as now. For the first time, about 4,000 heavily polluting plants such as chemical factories, smelting works, oil refineries and tanneries will need licences to operate, and their managements will have to employ the best available technologies not entailing excessive cost.

The inspectorate, set up in 1987 to implement integrated pollution control, will define what these technologies are in each particular industrial process by issuing guidance notes. It will consult the chemical industry when the initial drafts are published, but not before. This is a break from the long tradition of close co-operation between the industry and the forerunner of HMIP, the Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate, a relationship felt in some quarters to have been too cosy.

Keith Humphreys, the chairman of the Chemical Industries Association's safety, health and environment council and chairman and managing director of Rhone-Poulenc, one of Britain's largest chemical companies, said: "We could well get guidance notes that are unworkable. That could lead to an enormous number of appeals that will make the practical application of what is a very good scheme for protecting the environment a farce. We are frustrated that our help has not been asked for. Even professional pollution inspectors working in an office environment do not have the necessary knowledge to develop guidance notes for processes we in industry are working on every day."

Frank Festes, the director of HMIP, said, however, the chemical industry would not help to draw up the guidance notes as they had before. "I don't think that's the way a regulatory body should go about its business. They can advise us, and we will take their views into account, but we might also want to take into account the views of Friends of the Earth, for example."

### Police to pay award of £50,000

By ROBIN YOUNG

KEVIN Thorpe of Heywood, Greater Manchester, was yesterday awarded £50,000 against Greater Manchester Police for assault, wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

The award, at Preston High Court before Mr Justice Steyn, included £30,000 exemplary damages. Mr Thorpe was said to have been seized by the hair and dragged down steps outside the Manchester students' union building while demonstrating against the then home secretary, Sir Leon Brittan, in March 1985.

He was kept in custody for three hours and subsequently convicted of obstructing the highway. On appeal Judge Presti, QC, then Recorder of Manchester, said that the police officers had "practised a deception on the court".

Mr Thorpe's solicitor, Rhys Vaughan, said yesterday: "As a result of this decision it is my view that there should now be a full enquiry into police conduct on that night."

### War veteran jailed for armed robberies

A WAR veteran with a rupture carried out armed raids on three building societies but was so unwell that he could only walk slowly from his crimes and escaped by Underground, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Alfred Glessinger, aged 63, carried out the robberies with a loaded revolver to pay his fuel bills and was arrested after pulling the gun on two British Transport detectives, the court was told.

Glessinger, of Barking, Essex, pleaded guilty to robbing £995 from the Nationwide building society in Whitechapel, and £935 from the Leeds Permanent in Stratford, both in east London. He also admitted attempting to rob the Halifax in Bethnal Green, and possessing a revolver loaded with five live rounds on each occasion. He was jailed for six years.

Mr Justice Judge said it was distressing to see before the court a man of 63 who had led a blameless life. He said that Glessinger was normally a gentle and harmless man who

was now filled with remorse. Glessinger was allowed to sit as the judge addressed him because of the rupture.

Glessinger was captured after Stephen Jackson, a manager at the Leeds branch, followed him to Stratford Underground station. He told a member of staff and detectives arrived to arrest Glessinger. He produced the gun and aimed it at them but was seized and disarmed. During the struggle he bit one of the detectives on the hand.

He told police that he had the revolver during the war and used it instead of a replica to get the "right effect". It was loaded but he made sure that if he pulled the trigger the hammer would fall on an empty chamber and only make a click. He said he had received a final demand for a £43 gas bill and was unable to pay because he received only £48 a week.

The court was told Glessinger had been made redundant as a warehouseman and was living on social security after caring for his sick father.



Sky watching: Amateur astronomers pursuing their hobby at the centre near Bacup

By JOHN YOUNG

EIGHT years ago Linda Simonian, a mathematics teacher, and Peter Drew, a mechanical engineer, embarked on a project to create Britain's first observatory for amateur astronomers. The centre is gradually taking shape in and around a group of derelict farm buildings between Bacup, Lancashire, and Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

"Our idea is to provide equipment which anyone interested in astronomy can use," Ms Simonian said. "Professionals have access to official facilities but amateurs have nowhere to go."

### Astronomy brought to amateurs

She and Mr Drew sold their house to pay for the 12 acres of land and have since lived with their two teenage daughters in two caravans on the site. "We thought we would have it all finished in about two years," she said.

Much of the estimated £50,000 needed for the first phase of the project has come through subscriptions from a club they have formed which

has more than 2,500 members. But they estimate that they are still £15,000 short of their target.

So far they have installed two telescopes of 30in and 17in aperture, a 120mm binocular telescope, computing equipment, a camera obscura and a planetarium — a popular attraction for local schoolchildren. Mr Drew is now building a 40in telescope. Their other plans include a conference and exhibition centre once the finance becomes available.

Ms Simonian said: "Even then we don't know when or where we will stop. It's a lifetime's work really."

### End the gloom, teachers urged

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS should be proud of their work and banish talk of "gloom and doom" because the quality of education has never been better, a moderate union leader said yesterday.

Although staff were overworked and underpaid, the past 15 years had seen vast improvements in schools in England and Wales, Bryan Round, chairman of the small, anti-strike Professional Association of Teachers, said.

Mr Round told the 40,000-strong union's annual conference at Nottingham University: "All the talk is of gloom and doom... we are so concerned with the problems that we tend to lose sight of the positive things, which far outweigh the problems."

"Schools are better resourced; classes are

smaller; training, both initial and in-service, is more systematic; pupils' special needs are better recognised; most important of all, schools are better managed than they used to be."

Mr Round, headteacher of Halyard comprehensive school, Luton, Bedfordshire, added: "The quality of teaching and learning is infinitely wider, deeper and richer than previously, and, as a result, more children are succeeding in more ways than ever before."

Between 1980 and 1988, the proportion of 16-year-olds achieving five or more higher-grade GCE O-levels had risen from 8.9 per cent to 11.2 per cent.

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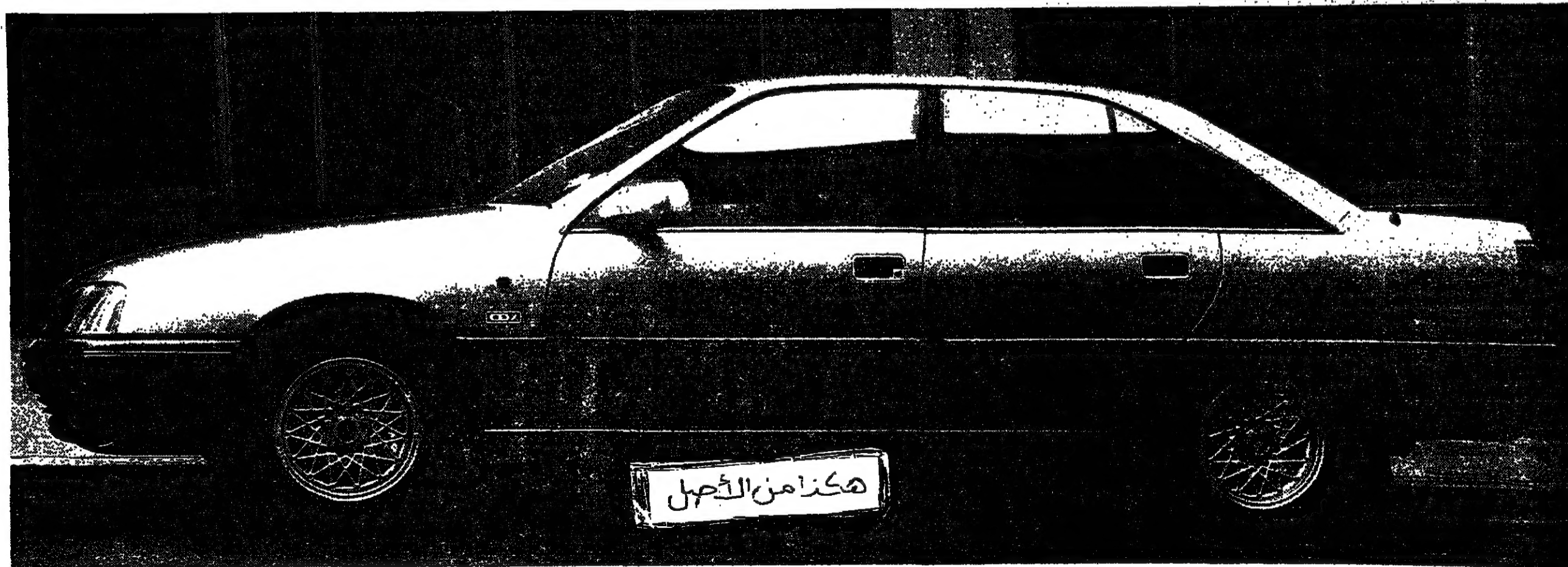
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Regular viewers of Crimewatch have probably noticed that getaway cars are hardly ever Vauxhall Carltons. Why is this?

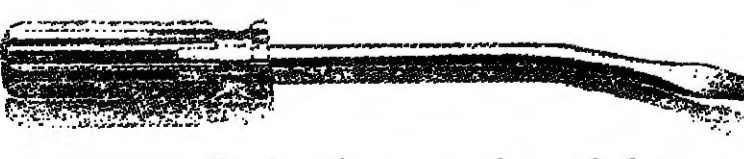
It can't be a lack of speed. The GSi 3000 24v can do 0-60 in 7.0 seconds.



And no-one can say the six-speaker compact disc system in the CD, CDX and GSi doesn't provide ample in-car entertainment during a high-speed chase.

A more likely explanation for a Vauxhall Carlton's unpopularity among the criminal element is that it's very nearly impossible to break into, never mind steal.

After all, every Carlton comes with central-locking with deadlocks on the doors, boot, tailgate, and even the filler cap.



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And on the GSi and CDX models you have the added advantage of a magic gizmo that monitors nine separate areas of the car.

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the starter motor if the car is tampered with).

The moral of the story is this: whether a car thief is a professional or nothing more than a light-fingered teenager after your stereo, your Carlton is as safe as a car can be from those who would like to break into it.

Although when it comes to a Vauxhall Carlton, it's difficult to blame anyone for wanting to try. **THE CARLTON**



# VAUXHALL

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**LIBERIAN** — The 1980-1981 military intervention in Liberia by the United States and other Western nations was a "civilian" operation, according to a report by the American Medical Association. The report, which was released last week, stated that the American Medical Association's investigation of the intervention in Liberia found that the intervention was a "civilian" operation, and that the American Medical Association's investigation of the intervention in Liberia found that the intervention was a "civilian" operation.

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European countries, he said, have been "basically" involved in the intervention in Liberia, and that the American Medical Association's investigation of the intervention in Liberia found that the intervention was a "civilian" operation.

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West Germany, Spain and the Netherlands, he said, have been "basically" involved in the intervention in Liberia, and that the American Medical Association's investigation of the intervention in Liberia found that the intervention was a "civilian" operation.

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on Sunday, he said, the American Medical Association's investigation of the intervention in Liberia found that the intervention was a "civilian" operation, and that the American Medical Association's investigation of the intervention in Liberia found that the intervention was a "civilian" operation.

Revolutions, he said, are "basically" involved in the intervention in Liberia, and that the American Medical Association's investigation of the intervention in Liberia found that the intervention was a "civilian" operation.

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## Kaunda sets free four in coup case

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## Philippines pact

armies has accepted the offer to consider for a temporary ceasefire to clear the road to the release of Thailand. The Thai government, an American Peace Corps volunteer and Famos Muzumbe, a Japanese in northern Laos, are communist guerrillas. (Reuters)

### Patients die

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## Legal reforms

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## Macabre killing

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# Massacre of refugees as Liberia slips into anarchy

From REUTER IN MONROVIA

**LIBERIAN** government troops massacred at least 200 civilians, mostly women and children, in a church yesterday when they broke into a Monrovia refugee camp, according to witnesses.

One witness who visited the Lutheran church compound in the Sinkor district of the beleaguered capital said he had seen women with their heads smashed open or blown to pieces by bullets, and babies still tied to their backs.

He said he had seen other bodies hanging from the window frames of the church building, apparently killed while trying to escape.

European Community ambassadors last week warned that this West African country founded in 1847 by freed American slaves was slipping into anarchy and on the brink of "national suicide".

The ambassadors of France, West Germany, Belgium, Spain and Italy called for an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council to deal with the Liberian civil war.

The rebels, who began their offensive in December, accuse the government of corruption and human rights abuses and demand the resignation of Samuel Doe, the president.

On Sunday night a rebel gunboat fired at Mr Doe's executive mansion, the latest of several raids.

Rival rebel leaders converging on Mr Doe's holdout from different directions each claim imminent victory and dis-

count the significance of the other. Prince Johnson said on Sunday that his forces, which were within one mile of the heavily fortified hilltop estate, were poised to seize Mr Doe and prevent his rival, Charles Taylor, from becoming president.

Mr Taylor, whose National Patriotic Front forces have been blocked for weeks near the suburb of Paynesville, six miles from Monrovia, has declared the dissolution of Mr Doe's government and said Mr Johnson's importance had been exaggerated.

Mr Johnson, aged 38, trained as an officer in Mr Doe's army. He is said to have taken part in an unsuccessful coup attempt against the president in 1985, then fled the country.

On Sunday, in his first meeting with foreign correspondents, he said that Mr Taylor, a former Doe aide, was a socialist trained and backed by Libya, and a criminal who had broken out of jail in the United States.

In the early 1980s Mr Taylor was charged with embezzling \$1 million (£556,000) from Liberia's general services administration. Arrested in the U.S., he escaped jail while awaiting extradition.

"He is not going to come here now and make himself president," Mr Johnson told reporters. "I don't want power. I want a fair election. Taylor will manipulate the election," Mr Johnson said he would install a civilian government.

He said he had a force of 7,000 men, 4,000 of them deserters from Mr Doe's army, while Mr Taylor's army is believed to be 5,000 strong.

Mr Johnson, who split with Mr Taylor in February, said he and Mr Taylor had trained in Libya with 167 men who later formed the backbone of the rebellion. He said Mr Taylor had agreed to adhere to Libyan socialist principles, while he had not.

Mr Johnson accused Mr Taylor's men of murdering his children, parents and uncles in their village and of killing and imprisoning his soldiers. But his break with Mr Taylor came only when Mr Taylor objected to death sentences Mr Johnson imposed on 12 of his own soldiers for stealing and desertion.

In weekend broadcasts Mr Taylor proclaimed himself president and promised to hold elections in six months. While the two rivals quarrelled, Mr Doe remained barricaded in his mansion, where he has pledged to make his final stand, with an elite guard from his Krahn tribe.

Rebels reportedly killed Mr Doe's assistant defence minister, Steven Blayee, as he tried to flee the city Sunday morning. The rebels now hold the defence ministry, the central post office, the Liberian Telecommunications office and the National Bank of Liberia.

## Kaunda sets free four in coup case

**Lusaka** — Four men imprisoned for life for plotting to overthrow President Kaunda of Zambia in 1980 were freed yesterday on his orders.

Their release marked the latest in a series of political reforms made by Dr Kaunda since anti-government riots last month left at least 26 people dead.

The freed men were a former high court commissioner, Edward Shamwana; a former general manager of the state Industrial Finance Company, Goodwin Yoram Mumba; a politician from Zaire, Deogratias Symba; and a driver, Chiambe Chimbailile.

"I am still confused in my mind," Mr Chimbailile, aged 60, told reporters as he left Lusaka Central Prison. "I really don't know what it is to be free yet." (AP)

## Philippines pact

**Bacolod** — The Philippine army has accepted rebel demands for a three-day ceasefire to clear the way for the release on Thursday of Timothy Swanson, an American Peace Corps volunteer and Fumio Mizuno, a Japanese aid worker, held by communist guerrillas. (Reuters)

## Patients die

**Dhaka** — Seventeen people have died in hospitals in Bangladesh as 12,000 doctors left their duties for three days in protest against a new government health policy.

## Nepal reforms

**Kathmandu** — Nepal has abolished capital punishment for murder and subversive activities and laws curbing freedom of speech. The death penalty remains in effect only for espionage and acts against the royal family and the crown. (AFP)

## Macabre killing

**Charleroi** — Belgian police said that two teenagers strangled their grandmother, Solange Deval, aged 62, on her birthday after failing to kill her with chocolate eclairs laced with valium, forcing her to inhale tear gas, knocking her out with chloroform, and beating her with a broom handle. (Reuters)

## Big Mac's out

**Florence** — The city council here has vetoed construction of a McDonald's fast food outlet 30 yards from the Dome cathedral, a Florentine landmark, despite approval from the church for a 250-seat restaurant in a 13th-century building once inhabited by the Medici. (AFP)

## Private arsenal

**Cambridge, Massachusetts** — Police seized a cache containing more than 300 rifles, 200 handguns, a machinegun, a mortar and gunpowder, in a weekend raid on the home of Henry Stram, aged 50, a gun collector. (AFP)



Blinded by the sunlight, a cook who survived 14 days in the rubble of the Hyatt Hotel in the northern city of Baguio after an earthquake shook the Philippines, is carried to a helicopter. "I thought I would not make it. I don't think I could have lasted one more day," said Pedro Dy, aged 27, before

being flown to a Manila hospital to be treated for dehydration and bruising (Reuters from Baguio). He survived by drinking his own urine and drips of rainwater. "I tried to commit suicide several times by banging my head against the concrete beams," he said. "My pillows were the broken

arms and the corpses of my dead companions." Mr Dy was the third survivor found in the last four days. Mr Dy said two other people trapped near him died last weekend, just before rescue. "Suddenly they stopped talking. It was then that I knew they were dead," he said.

## Cabinet meets as doubts emerge on Slovo 'plot'

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

**BOTH** the South African cabinet and the African National Congress met yesterday to discuss their strategies for their next round of talks scheduled for August 6, which are becoming increasingly critical if the pledge by both sides to seek a peaceful solution is not to be delayed.

President de Klerk summoned the cabinet to a meeting expected to last for two days at a secret venue outside Pretoria. At the same time the ANC's national executive committee met to consider its reaction to Mr de Klerk's demand to Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, that Joe Slovo, the leader of the South African Communist Party, be excluded from the negotiations.

Mr Mandela has twice emphasised that the talks are still on since he was called to Pretoria last week by Mr de Klerk for a two-hour crisis meeting following police claims that they had uncovered a plot by the SACP to infiltrate hardline guerrillas into the country to stage an insurrection. Mr de Klerk and

becoming known, is based on reports by over-enthusiastic security operatives which have not been properly evaluated at top level.

It would not be the first time this has occurred. Last year the South Africans claimed to have intercepted coded radio messages between units of the UN peacekeeping force in Namibia warning of imminent invasion by guerrillas of the South West African People's Organisation, now the government of the newly independent territory.

It appeared subsequently that the messages were planted by right-wing elements, though this was not proved. Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, who is regarded by the ANC as one of the most hawkish members of the cabinet, declined yesterday to comment on assertions by Mr Mandela that the police have acted prematurely and said that any comment would have to come from President de Klerk.

He told the Johannesburg *Business Day* newspaper: "Enough has been said already. The state president is speaking on behalf of the government on a political level. All that I can say is that the police are continuing to investigate."

A police spokesman said: "A Comrade Joe was present at the meeting in Tongaat, but we don't know who he is. It is still possible that he could have attended the meeting, but we cannot prove it."

Mr Slovo, who South Africa claims holds the rank of a colonel in the Soviet KGB, claims that he was in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, at the time and that the stamps in his passport prove it.

● **PRETORIA:** Police said yesterday that they had traced the owner of a minibus rigged to explode on Saturday in the biggest car bomb attack in the history of urban guerrilla warfare in South Africa (AP reports). The 251 lb device was spotted by a member of the public in a Pretoria car park and defused by experts.

## Israel denies 'guidance' in radio reports

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

**ISRAEL'S** foreign ministry announced yesterday that it had suspended relations with a recording studio after allegations that radio reporters there were being given government guidance on what to carry in their dispatches.

The ministry said in a statement that the suspension came "in the course of a standard review" on July 18. It was not, however, announced until yesterday, when *The New York Times* disclosed what it termed "a covert programme in which radio reporters were hired by the studio and given government guidance on what they should report to radio stations around the world."

The ministry's statement acknowledged that it had had a relationship for several years with the Avi Yaffe Studio in Jerusalem.

It said the studio, working on commission, made audiotapes about topics such as Jewish holidays, Israeli music and Jewish customs which were then distributed by Israel through Israel's foreign embassies and other government agencies.

"There are no journalists on the foreign ministry payroll," the statement said, "nor are any journalists connected in any obligatory fashion."

The ministry acknowledged, however, that it was worried "about possible misperceptions that some aspects of the current arrangements might be misconstrued as involving conflict of interest."

According to *The New York Times* and two Israeli radio correspondents familiar with the operation, about a dozen Israeli journalists worked regularly at the studio.

One journalist said he was not aware of these people getting paid cash by either the foreign ministry or the studio but said, instead, they did not have to pay for the studio time to produce their pieces.

Avi Yaffe, who operates the studio, denied there was a conflict of interest and rejected suggestions that the reporters were getting money from the government.

## Tanks return as Peking prepares for Asian Games

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

**TANKS** are reappearing on the streets of Peking, as the government prepares for the Asian Games, to be held in the city in September.

Since last summer there have been only rare sightings of armoured vehicles. Now, diplomats report that tanks and armoured personnel carriers have been moved into the city over the past ten days.

China's leaders have repeatedly claimed that next time they encounter popular opposition they will not use lethal force. The influx of armoured vehicles, however, suggests that massive force would be used again. "If anything happens, it will be put down quickly and brutally," said one diplomat.

A Chinese resident described seeing a tank in the university district. "There were soldiers wearing combat helmets in it, and a crowd of about a hundred onlookers had gathered. They just watched; they did not yell at it or anything."

A foreigner reported seeing an armoured personnel carrier fitted with police lights and loudspeakers in a residential area in the northeast of the city.

The reappearance of armoured vehicles coincides with large-scale troop movement in the city. Convoys carrying up to three hundred soldiers have been seen in daylight travelling along the Avenue of Eternal Peace, near Tiananmen Square. Over the past week, helicopters have been flying repeatedly over a large sports stadium and the surrounding districts.

Diplomats believe that the troops and helicopters are carrying out contingency exercises in order to be fully prepared for anti-government unrest during the Asian Games.

Many observers, both Western and Chinese, are comparing the Asian Games to the visit of Mikhail Gorbachev last May, which provided the catalyst for the student hunger strike and popular demonstrations.

Like that visit, the games are an international event drawing a large press contingent and the attention of the world. There is speculation that anti-government protesters might choose this time

to make the biggest possible international impact.

Even if no protests are planned, diplomats say that any incidents during the games might quickly gather a crowd of thousands. They fear that the security forces, inexperienced in riot control might not know how to disperse a gathering without excessive force.

"There is a very genuine desire to use the police to put a stop to unrest, but the temptation to use massive force to totally overwhelm any incident will be tremendous. There will be a lot of very itchy commanders around," said a Western diplomat.

There has been a substantial increase in the number of People's Armed Police in the city. Their name is misleading. The PAP carry AK-47s, drive armoured vehicles and come under the leadership of the army.

Moreover, it is believed that many of the soldiers demobilised over the past year have merely changed uniform and returned to the streets as part of the PAP.

The official media have prominently reported the establishment of riot squads and the stockpiling of non-lethal anti-riot equipment. The Communist party leader, Jiang Zemin, said in May that there had been adequate preparations for riots.

However, Western diplomats say that, as a result of sanctions, few countries have been willing to sell China anti-riot gear.

In the run-up to Army Day tomorrow, the official media are busy trying to improve the image of the PLA, describing it as "of the people for the people". Western diplomats, however, intend to boycott the reception tonight.

"Things may be moving on the civilian front," said one Western diplomat. "but people feel it is still too soon after June 4 to be re-establishing contact with the PLA." The event was boycotted last year as well.

While some countries are believed to have pressed for a resumption of social contact with the military, the European Community will act together, as it does on all sanctions imposed after the Peking massacre.

## Fujimori launches a moral crusade

From CORINNE SCHMIDT IN LIMA

**JUST** a few days into his administration, the new president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, seems unafraid of making powerful enemies in his battle to drag the country out of what he calls "the worst crisis of its history".

Although he has yet to say what he will do to solve the economic problems, he has already tackled the outgoing government party, which is still powerful in Congress, the bloated government bureaucracy, and a sector of the armed forces.

The final weeks before Señor Fujimori's inauguration were marred by chaos in his party and in his advisory teams. To counter the concerns raised by that internal unrest, he is now cultivating an image of strong moral leadership. One adviser said Señor Fujimori sought to be seen as a leader who was somewhat "above the fray", leaving politically costly tasks to his prime minister, Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller.

The prime minister, for instance, will have the difficult job of announcing the new government's economic programme, which Señor Fujimori has only discussed in generalities. In his first press conference as president yesterday, Señor Fujimori said that his prime minister would make the announcement this Thursday or Friday.

Señor Fujimori promised again yesterday that his economic programme would "protect the buying power of the poor", although he said he

would not index salaries to inflation. But most analysts think that the economic measures will be drastic and some jaded observers say that is the reason for the moralisation campaign.

This is exactly what the Mexican president, Miguel de la Madrid, did, said Félix Jiménez, an economist. "He announced a fight against corruption to legitimise his economic measures, which will inevitably hurt the poor. We face looting in the markets and the growth of terrorism."

To counter terrorism, Señor Fujimori has invited the subversives of the marxist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement and the Maoist Shining Path to a dialogue. He may already have his answer. In a raid on the Lima offices of the German press agency, DPA, the Tupac Amaru movement painted on the walls "Fujimori — another deceit for the people."

Señor Fujimori's campaign slogan was "honesty, technology, work". He told journalists yesterday in his first press conference as president: "Moralisation is my banner."

But making the promise a reality will bring him enemies. He has sharply criticised the outgoing administration of Alan García, and his party, Apra. He denounced "contracts which were against the national interest," said that the drug trade had "penetrated the government sphere", and recalled an Apra congressman who "fled like a vulgar criminal".

He also replaced the air force chief, widely accused of corruption, and the navy chief, whom sources say he blamed for a wave of coup rumours that swept Lima shortly before the elections.

The new president's harshest words were for the judiciary and the ministry of justice, which he dubbed "the ministry of injustice" in his inaugural speech. Responding to claims by the chief justice of the Supreme Court that the accusations were exaggerated, Señor Fujimori said: "It would be interesting to poll the Peruvian people. It is time we called things by their name. What is going on is intolerable."

The president added that, because of the interminable delays of the Peruvian court system, fewer than 1,000 of 6,000 prisoners in Lima's notorious Lurigancho prison have been sentenced.



Bomb disposal: Phou Wathana, a former Pathet Lao guerrilla, showing children at Tschepon, Laos, one of the thousands of bombs dropped on the country by US aircraft during the Vietnam war. This one has been converted into an oil lamp

## Pitcairn fails to hook revenue from fishing industry

By ANDREW McEWE  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

**PITCAIRN**, the British colony in the Pacific populated by descendants of the Bounty mutineers, has failed to become a fishing nation.

It hoped to increase its income by selling fishing licences, but after a three-year trial Japanese trawler operators have dropped out. The tiny, self-sufficient community of 59 people earns its livelihood by selling stamps and coins and from interest on investments, but saw fishing as a hope of greater prosperity.

Although not poor, most Pitcairn residents supplement their income by carving ornaments to sell to passing ships. Brian Young, the island leader who visited Britain last week, said that without the ornaments sales most people would be unable to buy imported goods.

Prices are high because Pitcairn is 1,530 miles from Tahiti, the nearest large centre.

The island earned 958,733 Pitcairn dollars last year and spent \$923,355, giving it a small surplus, but two-thirds came from stamps and coins. The Pitcairn dollar, one of the world's smallest currencies, has the same value as the New Zealand dollar — 3.1 to £1.

When an agreement was signed with Japan Tuna three years ago there were hopes that fishing could become an important industry. But the six boats sent in the first year dwindled to one last year, and licence income slumped to \$6,314.

The agreement is due for renewal but Japan Tuna is not interested, saying its catches have been low. Another company has shown interest, but because of Pitcairn's

remoteness the chances of an agreement are not good. If Pitcairn could increase its revenue it could sustain a higher population, which at present is only one-third of the minimum normally needed to make a community viable.

Mr Young, who was invited to Britain because of the mutiny's 200th anniversary this year, seemed relaxed about the setback. He argued that, as long as collectors bought stamps, Pitcairn would get by. The population has declined in recent years, but he felt it was now stable. Further losses were unlikely because a number of former emigrants were interested in returning.

Mr Young, aged 35, is a seventh-generation descendant of the Bounty's midshipman, Edward Young, one of the nine mutineers. In 1790 Fletcher Christian, the first mate,

led them to Pitcairn with a dozen Tahitian women and a few other men to hide from British justice. They were found 18 years later, but most were dead as a result of murder, accident or illness. A Royal Navy captain decided not to arrest those who remained.

Mr Young says his ancestor and John Adams were the only ones to die of natural causes. Edward Young succumbed to asthma at the age of 29, but not before he had taught Adams to read and write, using the Bounty's bible. Adams was largely responsible for reforming the colony's values, and his legacy remains to this day. Visitors to Pitcairn have commented on its strong community spirit and the cheerful disposition of its people.

Mr Young's title is chief magistrate, an anomaly in a crime-free

community which has not had a court case since 1968, when some trees were burnt. But it carries a badge of office and a salary of 250 Pitcairn dollars a month, making him the fifth highest paid man.

The people have their own dialect, a mixture of 18th-century English and Polynesian. A typical greeting is "Whataway?", meaning "How are you?", to which the usual reply is: "I am cuss" ("I'm fine").

When the Queen talked to Mr Young and his wife, Karie, at a Buckingham Palace garden party last week she was addressing 3.4 per cent of Pitcairn residents. The island has 12 able-bodied men, and the labour supply depends on community spirit. "We pay no taxes but we all do some form of public works," he said. That includes maintaining 17.5 miles of mud roads.



# Liberals fear the tide has turned in US Supreme Court

From PETER STOTHARD  
US EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush's first appointment to the US Supreme Court is likely to be easily confirmed by the Senate this autumn.

Early indications from Capitol Hill suggest that the New Hampshire judge, David Souter, is a successful political choice. His lack of clearly expressed views on abortion will enable him to glide past critics on right and left.

However, as some liberal pressure groups plan to fight the nomination of a conservative judge to the court, others are recognising the likelihood that, after half a century of success in the nation's highest court, they will have to pursue their agenda elsewhere.

The greatest liberal achievement of the postwar period was the 1973 decision in *Roe v Wade* that women had a constitutional right to abortion.

Under the American system, that right overrides virtually all variously relaxed or restrictive state statutes that have governed the matter since the nation was

founded. The decision was disputed as soon as it was written. It was based on a constitutional right to privacy that the judgment's author, Justice Blackmun, drew from the Fourteenth Amendment to the constitution.

Although, as he admitted, "the constitution does not explicitly mention any right of privacy", personal privacy was judged implicit in the concept of ordered liberty, an idea at the centre of the founders' aims in framing the laws of the United States.

The present head of the court, Chief Justice Rehnquist, dissented. He called it a new constitutional right "with scarcely any reason or authority" that prevented the people of 50 states from exercising their constitutional right to weigh the development of a fetus against other factors.

Today four of the court's nine members substantially agree with Justice Rehnquist. A fifth, Sandra Day O'Connor, is ambiguous, but appears to lean towards some restriction. Three still uphold the decision, as did the retiring Justice William Brennan whose illness

allowed the appointment of Judge Souter. Research in recent days has not revealed a clear view of how Judge Souter would vote if a case came before the court that would allow *Roe v Wade* to be overturned.

It is extremely likely that one will be brought. Just as the *Roe* case was brought after a long search by pro-abortion activists to find a suitable candidate for a test case, so pro-life activists will probably do the same.

Judge Souter's verdict will be crucial: if he joins the anti-*Roe* camp, the constitutional right to an abortion will be overturned, regardless of Justice O'Connor's view.

The only certainty about Judge Souter is that he tends to be "a strict constructionist". This much abused term means that he is likely to support a more literal view of the constitution than those justices, such as William Brennan, who believed it was their duty to write court judgments as though they were new laws.

The "strict constructionist" position is

much less extreme than liberals like to paint it. Abortion, say strict constructionists, while not a constitutional right, is also not prevented by the constitution.

For nearly 200 years, the constitution has been said to guarantee rights that the nation's founders never intended. The document was barely complete, and Justice Samuel Chase was trying for political reasons to reduce states' rights.

No modern conservative, certainly not Robert Bork who was rejected by the Senate for his constructionist views, wants to turn the clock back to the original constitutional intentions of the founders, rejecting all the judicial precedent that has accrued since then. The argument is much more complex.

So-called "judicial activism" has increased since the Roosevelt New Deal and since it became the means to pass much of the civil rights legislation that rescued America from turmoil in the 1960s and 1970s.

The question is whether it is now causing strains within America rather than easing them, whether it should slow, and whether some of the rights

removed from democratically elected state legislatures should be returned.

Senators would like Judge Souter to answer such questions. Many think it unacceptable to ask a Supreme Court nominee whether he would overrule *Roe v Wade*.

But recent practice would make it allowable to ask him how he saw the "privacy" doctrine within the confines of the constitution.

His answer to that question need not define his position on abortion, however. As Mr Bork argues in reply to his critics, "nobody has ever quarrelled with the prospect that certain zones or aspects of privacy or freedom are protected".

The question is whether abortion rights are protected by constitutional privacy or merely, in Justice Blackmun's phrase, by the political power of their being "a milestone on women's march to equality".

Judge Souter has said only that he will answer questions that he deems constitutionally appropriate.

That is vague. To an enthusiast for the practices of the period before 1925 no

questions would be appropriate because the Senate asked none. Since then, some nominees have refused to testify at all; others, like Antonin Scalia in 1986, have refused many questions. Some have responded freely.

President Bush has made clear that he supports Judge Souter's reticence, urging conservatives as well as liberals with the notion that they are being asked to buy a pig in a poke.

His aim, however, is to delay an abortion row for as long as possible, ideally until after his re-election attempt in 1992 and certainly until after he has achieved a congressional consensus on the budget issue.

Progress on reducing the deficit will probably have the greatest single impact on his chances of being returned to the White House.

If, as Supreme Court judges often do, Judge Souter then ends up taking surprise positions and disappointing Bush supporters on either or both sides, the president will be able to shrug his shoulders and say it was all a long time ago.

## Cost of big US finance scandal is now £250 bn

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WILLIAM Seidman, the official overseeing the bail-out of the US Savings and Loan (S&L) industry, said yesterday the cost of America's biggest financial scandal would be "much in excess of \$500 billion" (£250.1 billion), the highest estimate yet.

He also predicted the government would have to take over hundreds more bankrupt S&Ls before the industry became viable again. It has already taken control of about 450, of which it has liquidated or restored and resold a little over 200.

"We expect to be somewhere between 800 and 1,000 when we've taken over all the insolvent S&Ls," said Mr Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

He put the immediate cost at between \$175 billion and \$200 billion, with the rest comprising interest on the money borrowed to finance the bail-out.

The last Treasury estimate was between \$90 billion and \$130 billion, excluding interest payments.

He blamed the constant upward revisions on inaccurate figures provided by the insolvent S&Ls and falling real estate prices, a slump compounded by the glut of S&L property coming on the market.

Reflecting mounting public fury, the executive of the national state governors' association agreed on Sunday to demand that Congress and the White House set up an independent commission to get to the root of the debacle, a move which the governors are expected to endorse today.

"This farm state governor is mad as hell about paying for the bills of some stupid high-rollers who wanted to line their own pockets," said Terry Brausted, Iowa's Republican governor and the association's chairman.

In Washington, with congressional elections looming, senators and congressmen are engaged in a bizarre scramble to divest themselves of "tainted" campaign contributions from S&Ls, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. A Senate race can cost a candidate \$4 million.

Tim Wirth, a Democrat senator from Colorado, for example, sent his state treasury a cheque for \$98,950 last week and spoke of "a tremendous feeling of liberation".

In a bid to deflect public anger, President Bush has pledged to intensify the drive for prosecutions. Around 18,000 cases have been referred to government investigators, but just 213 have so far been convicted.

Congress is also enacting legislation to increase punishments for S&L crooks; to hasten their prosecution and to set up its own investigation.

Latest official statistics show that the S&L industry is continuing to lose money. Barely half of those not already taken over are healthy enough to be confident of survival. Nearly a quarter of them lost so much money during the first three months of this year that their losses exceeded the combined earnings of the rest.

The bail-out programme is itself running out of money. It is expected to need a new infusion of funds before the end of the year, six months earlier than expected.

## Sri Lanka rescue plan for Britons

Colombo — About 90 British citizens and a Swiss national trapped in a Tamil Tiger rebel stronghold by an army siege will be evacuated by the Sri Lankan government, military officials said yesterday.

They said a state-owned cargo ship will sail today for Point Pedro, on the northern Jaffna peninsula, to evacuate foreigners trapped in the fighting between the rebels and government troops. The evacuation plan was organized by the International Committee for the Red Cross, the officials said. The ship is expected to return to Colombo later in the week.

Jaffna, 186 miles north of Colombo, has been cut off from the rest of the island since June 11, when the rebels broke a 13-month ceasefire. At least 2,950 combatants and an unknown number of civilians have died. (AP)

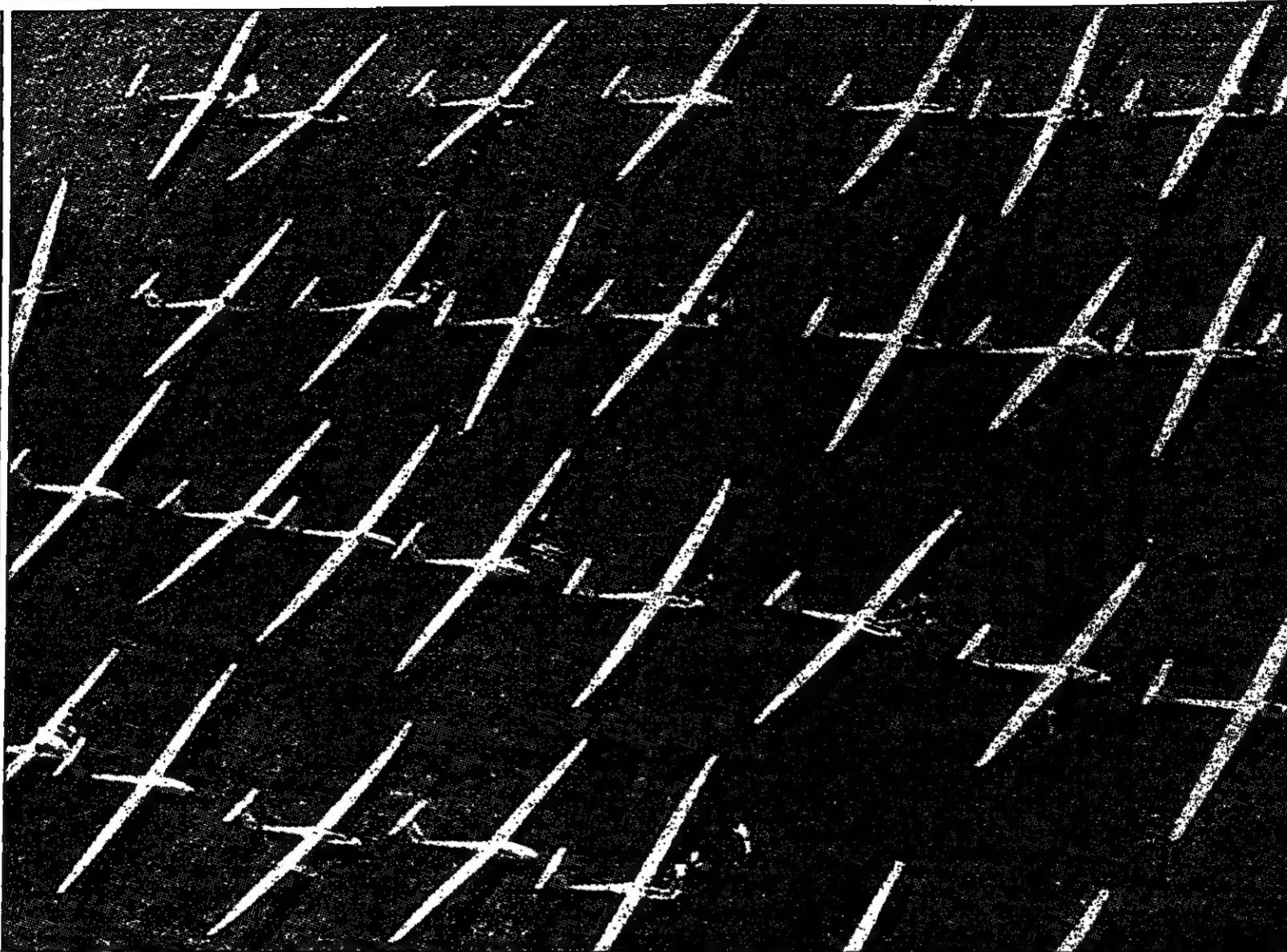
## Suicide theory over war crimes

Sydney — The defendant in the first Australian war crimes trial, in a critical condition yesterday after being found shot in the chest on an Adelaide street on Sunday night only hours before he was due to appear in court, may have tried to commit suicide, police said (A Correspondent writes).

Ivan Polyukhovich, aged 74, who has been in Australia for more than 40 years, was charged last January with the murder of 24 people in the Ukraine during the second world war.

**Burma's rulers delay reform**  
Bangkok — Burma's military rulers could delay the introduction of democracy for years, according to Rangoon-based Western diplomats, who said that information from opposition politicians and other sources indicated that the regime had no intention of handing over power to civilian politicians elected two months ago (Neil Kelly writes).

The government has ordered a complicated procedure for transferring power to the National League for Democracy, which won more than 80 per cent of parliamentary seats in the election, and has ignored an appeal to free its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, under house arrest for more than a year.



Tow paths: contestants in West Germany's gliding championships at Bockenburg queuing up for a tow. The event is now in its second week.

## Laws on abortion still keep Germanies apart

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

EAST and West Germany must keep their very different laws on abortion for some time after reunification, according to Lothar de Maizière, the East German prime minister. In an interview published yesterday in *Der Spiegel*, he said it would be wrong to prosecute West German women who went to East Germany for an abortion.

The abortion question is proving the most difficult of all those posed by merging two societies which have been developing in different ways for the past 40 years.

The strictness of the West German system means that tens of thousands of women there go abroad, sometimes to East Germany, to have an abortion or else pay for an illegal one.

The East German government, which is being pressured into accepting many aspects of West German law, has West German allies in trying to preserve its abortion law. Although Catholic politicians are appalled at the idea of any relaxation in the present system, they face a growing lobby insisting on change.

In Herr de Maizière's view, neither system is perfect. "Morals cannot be created by laws," he said. His view that there should at least be a transitional period when both

systems operate is backed by Count Otto Lambsdorff, leader of the West German Free Democrats (FDP), who also told *Der Spiegel* that, if this were agreed, it would be wrong to prosecute West German women who went to East Germany for an abortion.

On this basis, the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) argues that abortion is unconstitutional.

From the opposition Social Democrat (SPD) side, the pressure is on to adopt the East German standard. Frau Inge Wettig-Danielmeier, a member of the SPD presidium, has called for legal legislation in a united Germany to ensure that women who do not want a child are not left at the mercy of illegal abortionists.

Another less moral, but more everyday battle, is looming over shop hours. In West Germany, shops are not allowed to open on Saturday afternoons or Sundays and they must not stay open after 6.30pm. In East Germany, they can open whenever the shopkeeper wants to do business.

The West German law prohibiting abortion is a hun-

dred years old and is reinforced by Article 2 of the Basic Law, which will be adopted as the constitution of the united country. Article 2 states that "everyone shall have the right to life and inviolability of the person".

On this basis, the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) argues that abortion is unconstitutional.

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## Hurd does some fence-mending

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE government has made good its decision to be nice to the Germans by giving a special welcome to Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German foreign minister.

Its fence-mending put a better light on Anglo-German relations, but the two countries' differences on Europe's monetary policy remained as deep as ever.

Margaret Thatcher told Herr Genscher that a single European currency was not feasible.

Herr Genscher and his wife Barbara were taken to Glyndebourne on Sunday as guests of Douglas Hurd and his wife, Judy. They saw *Falstaff*, the Verdi opera based on Sir John Falstaff, Shakespeare's fat disreputable knight. The Foreign Office is likely to have checked first that there were no anti-German innuendoes.

The two couples spent the night at Chevening, Mr Hurd's official country residence, and Herr Genscher met Mrs Thatcher for talks at Downing Street yesterday.

Both sides denied that the aim was to repair damage caused by Nicholas Ridley's

interview with *The Spectator* and the disclosure that defects in the German character had been analysed at a Chequers seminar chaired by Mrs Thatcher. The seminar concluded that the British should "be nice to the Germans".

Whitehall sources said the night out was arranged weeks ago, although it is understood that the West German embassy was told only a week ago. Herr Genscher backed the Whitehall version, saying that the visit had nothing to do with the Ridley affair.

Mr Hurd, who gets on well with Herr Genscher, is thought to have been embarrassed by Mr Ridley's suggestion that proposals for European monetary union were "a German racket to take over the whole of Europe".

Mrs Thatcher's talks with Herr Genscher were said to have been friendly, but the sources said she made clear her views on the European Community. She also pressed the proposal by John Major, the Chancellor, for a hard-ecu to run in parallel with the 12 European currencies.

PARIS NOTEBOOK by Philip Jacobson

## Schoolroom diet dulls the French literary palate

In a country where intellectuals enjoy celebrity status and a handsome reduction on their income tax, the news that the French are reading far less than they used to comes as a something of a body blow.

Figures showing that fewer and fewer young people here ever open a book are particularly dismaying for those who cherish the great literary traditions of the land of Racine, Flaubert, Camus and Sartre.

According to the semi-official review *Economics & Statistics*, the flight from the written word is most marked among the nation's secondary school children, well over half of whom no longer complete the one book a month required to qualify as "readers". But those who go on to higher education are also turning their backs increasingly on reading outside their onerous course work.

Only among the most highly qualified — some would say over-educated — section of France's adult population do books still hold their own. Interestingly, the organisers of the survey resist the

temptation to blame it all on television, though the French are spending more and more time in front of the screen.

The more likely explanation for the precipitous decline in reading, they surmise, lies in the French educational system, where long-suffering students are obliged to commit huge chunks of set books to memory in preparation for examinations that set great store on "textual analysis".

The fatal effect, argues the survey, is to confuse the infinite rewards of reading for pleasure with the unappealing grind of school life.

Delegates from some 130 countries came to Paris recently for the 32nd World Conference of Scouts, and who better to open the jamboree than Michel Rocard, the French prime minister. As a lad, he wore his woggle with pride, and to this day cartoonists here enjoy depicting him rushing about furiously on matters of state in his old uniform, shorts and all.

On this great occasion, however,

M Rocard managed to outdo his boss. President Mitterrand had sent a fulsome message of welcome, but it was the prime minister who collected a splendid presentation version of a Scout's best friend, the Swiss army knife.

With the August silly season looming and sensible newsmakers heading for the beach, the French media fall with gratitude on the sort of human interest stories exemplified by the saga of the Fourtours of Ovanches. This fierce and lawless clan has apparently been terrorising the little village in the depths of Haute-Saône for several years, insulting and threatening all and sundry, vandalising neighbours' property and seeing off complainants with a volley of shotgun pellets.

Life became so unpleasant because of the Fourtours' scorn of authority that the mayor and most councillors resigned and not a single candidate came forward to replace them. Imagine the relief of villagers when, after anguished complaints, a squad of the crack police unit normally used on anti-

terrorist operations was sent from Paris to assault the family home and carry a couple of its young men off to face trial on an impressive array of charges.

Alas for Ovanches, the formidable Mme Fourtier is still in residence, greatly enjoying the attentions of visiting journalists and television crews. The other day, she obliged by storming into the church with two daughters and ringing the bells for half an hour. When last heard of, Mme Fourtier had commandeered the village's only public telephone cabin, essential, she observes, for maintaining contact with the press. A ghosted book on her unruly life and times is said to be in preparation for the publishers.

The ever-increasing number of Britons buying up properties over here is naturally welcomed by those French selling up at prices hoisted well above the level for locals. But more than a few *mairies* in popular regions such as Normandy are now having second thoughts about the invasion of "les Anglo-Saxons". Apart

from driving up the cost of housing for French families, the knock-on effect of too many holiday homes occupied for only a few months a year can be severe. According to Gilbert Delaysais, the mayor of Gerville, near Fécamp, it discourages French families from settling in rural communes, which in turn deprives local schools of potential pupils and local businesses of year-round custom.

M Delaysais was particularly upset by the recent purchase of a house in his village by the Annets family of Plymouth — nothing against them personally, he insists, "but holidaymakers will not keep this place alive". Unsurprisingly, the French estate agents now doing record business with British buyers will have nothing of such complaints.

As far as the Annets are concerned, one has pointed out, the property had been on the market for two years without a whiff of a sale; in any case, there is no law that prevents discerning foreigners with the requisite supply of francs from acquiring their own little corner of France.

## Moscow seeks a deal on banks

From MARY DEBEVSKY  
IN MOSCOW

VIKTOR Gerashchenko, chairman of the Soviet state bank, Gosbank, talked yesterday with senior representatives of the Russian Federation in an attempt to find a compromise over the dispute surrounding the federation's proposed bank.

The talks followed a presidential decree on Sunday calling on the Soviet Union's republics to "refrain" from introducing financial reforms until the new union treaty was in place.

Mr Gerashchenko told journalists in Moscow that the two sides had "generally understood each other" and agreed on the need for basic principles of a new banking system to be worked out before the new treaty was ready.

It is not clear whether the dispute, which arose over the Russian Federation parliament's decision two weeks ago to establish a separate bank, has been resolved.

According to Arkadi Maslennikov, President Gorbachev's press spokesman, new legislation to define the relationship between the central and republic banks will be a priority of the next parliamentary session, which opens in September. Both he and Mr Gerashchenko emphasised the need to retain a single currency and a single banking system and criticised moves by some republics, including the Baltic republics, to establish their own currencies.

Turning to legislation permitting Soviet citizens to hold foreign currency, which comes into force tomorrow, Mr Gerashchenko feared a sharp fall in confidence in the ruble and doubted the move would end or even limit the black market currency dealing.

Giving a glimpse of the disagreements on economic policy which continue to dog the Soviet leadership, Mr Gerashchenko said he had "agreed to the legislation, but objected to it". He hoped that the measure would be temporary and foresee a gradual transition back to a ruble economy where foreign currency was available at a more realistic rate to any buyer.

The monopoly of the state-managed Berezka shops has been eroded by the arrival of several joint venture groups trading for convertible currency. The chain was at one point threatened with closure as its inefficiency and the poor quality of its goods led to a sharp fall in custom. The opening of such shops to Soviet citizens has probably ensured their survival for some time.

Mr Gerashchenko said that allowing Soviet citizens to buy goods with foreign currency was unjust because it benefited those who got their money illegally, while workers whose products were exported were not guaranteed anything.

Mr Gerashchenko also disclosed that domestic objections had led to the postponement of plans to devalue the ruble for foreign commercial transactions. Any change in the rate, which stands at the completely unrepresentative ratio of one ruble to one pound, was not now likely to take place until next year at the earliest.

● KIEV: Ukraine, stepping up its defiance of Moscow, yesterday demanded the return of all Ukrainians doing national service in the Soviet Army.

The republic's parliament called on the Soviet defence ministry to withdraw all enlisted Ukrainian soldiers from troubled areas such as Kirghizia, Azerbaijan and Armenia by October 1. Those serving in other Soviet republics should be returned to Ukraine by December 1.

The resolution would be difficult to enforce but has symbolic importance as an act of defiance. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 13

مكتبة الأصيل



# Libya trained Trinidad coup rebels, US claims

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON  
AND JAMES BUNE IN PORT OF SPAIN

AMERICAN State Department officials yesterday claimed that members of the black Muslim movement, trying to overthrow the government of Trinidad and Tobago, received training in Libya last year.

A spokesman said: "We know that the group involved has direct ties with Libya, that some of its members have been trained in Libya. To us it appears to be one more example of Libyan involvement with violent extremist groups around the world which of course we have condemned."

Washington was yesterday consulting "closely and regularly" with the government of Trinidad and Tobago, but would not divulge the nature of those communications. It was also in contact with other governments in the Caribbean region and with the British government.

The State Department would not comment on reports that an American aircraft carrier, the Theodore Roosevelt, was in the vicinity of Trinidad and that American planes had flown over the country. "We have no plans for military intervention," said the spokesman.

Yasin Abu-Bakr, the leader of the Jamaat al-Muslimeen, has spent several years confronting the government for what he calls social justice, saying he does not recognise "man's laws" but only "the laws of Allah".

After his group struck on Friday, Mr Abu-Bakr announced in a television broadcast that Arthur Robinson, the prime minister, had been overthrown by God. "God has removed him. No man, including me, has power... He gave us victory over the prime minister."

Mr Abu-Bakr is known in the islands simply as the Imam. In his mid-forties, he worked for nine years as a mounted policeman in Trinidad.

In the early 1980s, he went to study engineering at the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto. It was there, under the influence of the Black Power movement, that he converted to Islam, which he later described as "the best thing I have done in my life".

While in Toronto, Mr Abu-Bakr also worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's film production unit.

He returned to Trinidad in 1984 and founded a sect called Jamaat al-Muslimeen, the "organisation of Muslims". Muslims make up 6 per cent of the 1.3 million population of Trinidad and Tobago. Most of the islands' Muslims are of East Indian descent, but the more radical black movement

has been growing, and the imam's sect is the largest among them, with about 300 members.

Jamaat al-Muslimeen established itself on an eight-acre area of swamp west of Port of Spain. The land had been donated in the early 1970s by the prime minister at the time, Eric Williams, to Muslims of East Indian descent, but it was never used. Mr Abu-Bakr built a large mosque on the site and a complex comprising a clinic, a primary school and a soup kitchen, and ran the area as a commune.

But the settlement caused problems with the government, which came to a head when Mr Abu-Bakr was jailed for several weeks in the mid-1980s.

In 1988 police raided the commune, seizing weapons and ammunition and arresting 34 members of the sect on charges of larceny, robbery, possession of illegal weapons, rape and murder.

Mr Abu-Bakr declared that his vigilantes were waging a war against "the menace of cocaine".

The government had recently renewed its efforts to evict the commune. Three months ago police seized part of the area where a new building was being constructed. Mr Abu-Bakr appealed against the seizure, but last month a high court judge, Ivor Blackman, ruled that it was legal.

More recently, Mr Abu-Bakr has been involved in a dispute over medical supplies reportedly donated by Libya. Customs agents prohibited them from entering the country, prompting Mr Abu-Bakr to accuse the government of refusing to let him distribute free medicine to the poor.

Until his coup attempt, Mr Abu-Bakr travelled frequently back and forth between Trinidad and Toronto, where his son and daughter go to university. Local reports say that, in the Muslim fashion, he has three wives. Mr Abu-Bakr was in Toronto as recently as six weeks ago, when he delivered a lecture to a Muslim group.

Friends describe him as a man committed to social justice. "If he thought this (coup attempt) was necessary, he would have done it with the people in mind and not with a view to personal glory," Harron Salamut, head of the Toronto region Islamic Congregation, said.

In his television broadcast, Mr Abu-Bakr said he finally decided to launch his coup attempt after the prime minister, Mr Robinson, announced last week that he intended to spend 500,000 Trinidad dollars (£65,000) on a memorial for a woman public servant called Jean Miles.

## Political impasse grips Bulgaria

From TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

THE Bulgarian parliament inched closer to a resolution of the country's presidential crisis yesterday as the candidate of the ruling Socialists was withdrawn. But a fifth ballot to elect a president still failed to produce a result.

Yesterday's session of parliament also heard a surprise declaration read on behalf of Todor Zhivkov, the country's former dictator, in which he declared that he would not appear before the house to answer questions "at the present time".

In yesterday's presidential poll Victor Vulkov, the candidate of the small Bulgarian Agrarian Party, failed by two votes to win the necessary two-thirds majority. The sixth round will take place today.

Until yesterday Mr Vulkov had been the outside candidate for the presidency, his party having only 36 seats in the 400-member parliament. However, yesterday the Socialists, the renamed communists, decided to drop their own candidate and throw their support behind Mr Vulkov.

Mr Vulkov was until last year the head of international relations for the Agrarians. Since 1923 his party had been in both informal and formal alliance with the communists. During the four decades of communist rule the Agrarians continued to exist in Bulgaria but only as a satellite grouping preserved in order to give the impression that more than one political party existed in Bulgaria. After the collapse of communist rule last November the Agrarians broke away and reasserted their identity as an independent centre party.

Mr Vulkov's near clinching of the presidency drew angry comments from the main opposition group in par-

liament, the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF). However the greatest anger came from its Social Democratic component which had backed their own leader, Petar Dertliev for president. One Social Democratic MP, Bogdan Atanasov, spoke of "treason" within UDF ranks. He said: "This means that the break-up of the UDF is very close now."

The declaration read to parliament on behalf of Mr Zhivkov, who ruled communist Bulgaria for 35 years, was brought to parliament by his grand-daughter. In it he declared that he did not want to be "manipulated" by any political party and also that he feared that at the present time his appearance to answer questions before parliament would only raise tension in the country.

Mr Zhivkov's declaration also showed him to be unrepentant and ready to defend his record. He declared that he should be "invited" to parliament and not "required to come". Mr Zhivkov said that he had now decided that he would only appear before parliament after he had been tried or if charges were dropped. Mr Zhivkov has just been released after six months of investigation and has so far not been charged.

He said: "As far as I know only one former leader, Emperor Bokassa of Central Africa, has been tried by a parliament. I do not intend to be the second. As party and state leader I bear the greater part of responsibility for what happened in Bulgaria during the past 35 years myself. However I gave you peace and stability and enough to eat. I worked for the good of Bulgaria and not for personal gain."



Three inmates of Oermingen jail in eastern France on the roof yesterday to protest at the recent presidential pardon of Anis Naccache, the Lebanese terrorist. The prisoners surrendered after setting jail facilities on fire

## Beirut cabinet puts squeeze on Aoun

FROM A CORRESPONDENT  
IN BEIRUT

THE Lebanese cabinet under President Hrawi began yesterday putting pressure on General Michel Aoun to give up power in east Beirut.

Official sources said the pro-Syrian cabinet of Salim Hoss, the prime minister, voted to block money, fuel and food from reaching an enclave east and north of the Lebanese capital, which General Aoun controls. The sanctions were decided at a cabinet meeting on Saturday after General Aoun rejected a

peace plan agreed by the Lebanese parliament in Taif, Saudi Arabia, last October, to end the civil war and guarantee a fair share of power to Lebanon's growing Muslim community.

General Aoun, after four meetings with Arab League envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, refused last week an offer by Mr Hrawi's leadership to join the cabinet under the terms of the Taif accord.

General Aoun tried unsuccessfully for six months last year to drive the Syrian army out of Lebanon. At the end of January this year he focused his efforts on disarming the Christian Lebanese

forces militia in east Beirut. More than 3,000 people were killed and most of Lebanon's infrastructure destroyed in the two conflicts.

Suhail Chammas, director-general of the foreign ministry, has told all Beirut-based diplomats not to contact General Aoun without his government's consent.

In a separate development, Lebanese Muslim fundamentalists of Hezbollah (Party of God) led by Iranian revolutionary guards attacked the more secular Shia militiamen of Amal in two strategic hills in southern Lebanon. More than 14 people were killed and 25 were wounded.

## Saddam to get more power

By HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq finally unveiled his proposed new constitution yesterday. He had promised it would bring Iraq into line with the modern world, but the document holds out no prospect of a democratic Mesopotamia. Nor does it bear any sign that its writers, guided by General Saddam, have heard of the past two years' changes in Eastern Europe.

The draft constitution was published in the state-controlled press "for public debate" before ratification by the president. It has been approved by the 250-seat National Assembly, though its final version does not include an amendment attached to it by the assembly, that General Saddam should be made president for life.

The biggest proposed change is the abolition of the Command Council of the Revolution, a body composed of the leaders of the Iraqi wing of the Arab Socialist Renaissance (Baath) party, which has hitherto elected the country's president from among its 10 members.

Much of the legislative powers of the council will go to the president, with the rest given to a shura, a kind of senate, with half of its 50 members directly appointed by General Saddam.

The draft constitution encourages the formation of new political parties, but stipulates that only the ruling Baath party will be allowed branches in the armed forces and the police. It also provides for the direct election of the president for an eight-year, renewable term.

## Noriega 'knew invasion was on'

From ASSOCIATED PRESS  
IN MIAMI

MANUEL Noriega learned in advance of the US invasion of Panama when a marine telephoned his mother to complain that the operation would interfere with his holiday, according to secret US army papers reported in a newspaper here yesterday.

The security leaks warning General Noriega of the move were described in reports by the joint debriefing centre of the US Army's 470th Military Intelligence Brigade after the December 20 invasion, according to *The Miami Herald*. Report highlights were recently videotaped by the British reporter, Paul Lashmar, of Granada Television's *World in Action* programme, and provided to the newspaper.

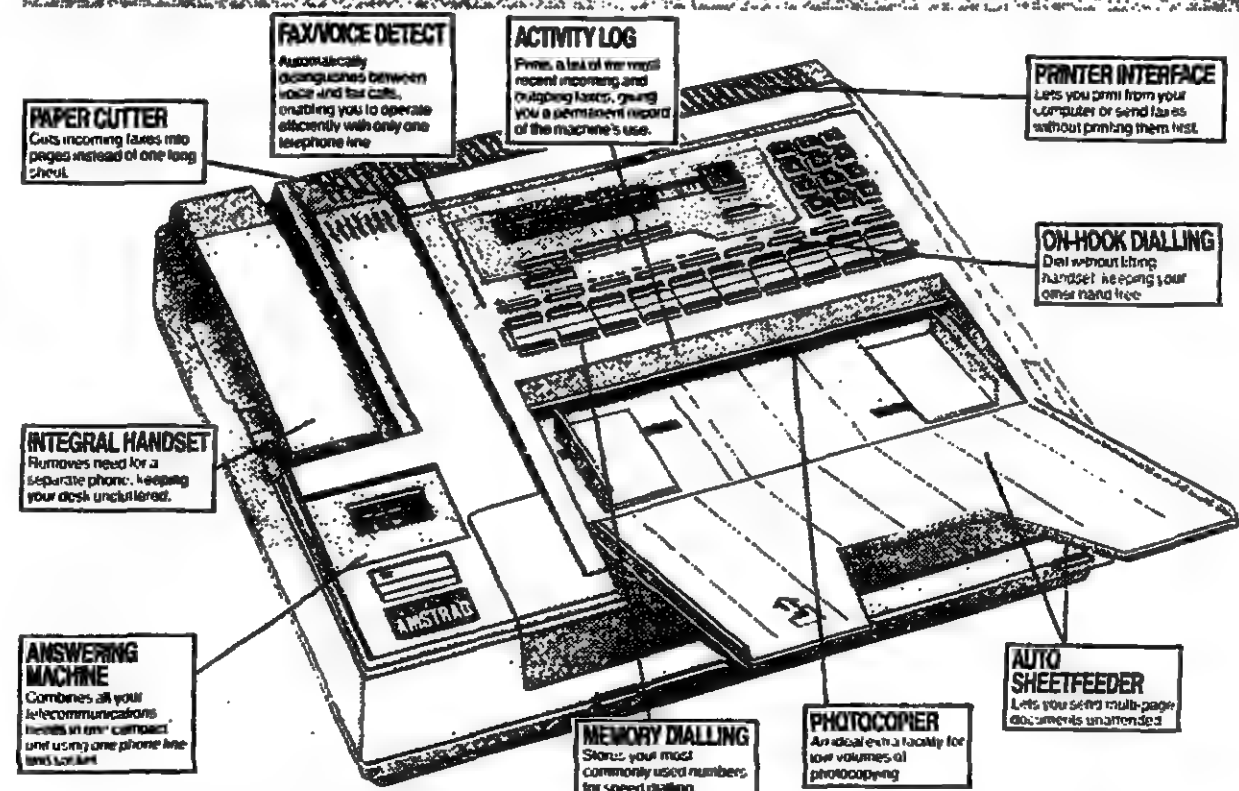
General Noriega is awaiting trial on drug trafficking charges.

Captured Panamanian officers told American interrogators that General Noriega did not expect a full-scale invasion until December 17, when he obtained telephone intercepts and intelligence reports indicating the move was imminent.

The Panamanian Defence Force intercepted a telephone call from a US Marine in Panama to his mother in the United States. US troops later found a transcript of the conversation at the headquarters of Panama's military intelligence agency.

"We've been here in the embassy since 10 o'clock last night waiting for the war to start," the marine said. "I was upset... they want to start when I'm getting ready to go home on vacation."

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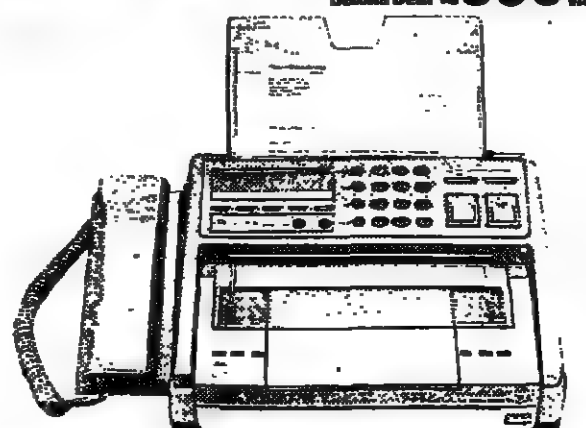
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## Brussels drift from basics

For Germany, France and Italy the last war was humiliating. All are anxious to forget it. But the British still respond to Churchill's defiant declaration of faith on June 18, 1940, that "... for a thousand years men will still say, 'This was their finest hour'." So television serials such as *Allo, Allo* retain wide appeal in reminding us that had we not fought on alone, the Nazi/Fascist forces would have established themselves permanently as the rulers of most of Europe. When German hegemony in Europe looms by other means than armed force, our national pride is stirred by fears that the sovereignty we kept in war will be lost in peace.

Our views on surrendering sovereignty to a German-dominated European Community are therefore different from those on the continent. But if we are to think the issue through clearly we must stop dwelling on our glorious past, which led to the defeat of a Hitler who no longer exists, and consider pragmatically how British interests can best be served.

Germany is unlikely ever again to be a military ogre and we can safely assume it is set in a democratic mould. Germans are greatly to be admired for achieving by hard work and intelligence a commanding economic position with a much higher standard of living than ours. We have led the way in creating the single market, due for completion by January 1993, as one way of catching up. This necessarily involves handing over to Brussels elements of sovereignty in matters of trade — but not of political control, as the unelected Brussels bureaucrats with their blatant political propaganda stridently insist we should.

I heard Sir Leon Brittan, a vice-president of the EC in charge of competition policy, speak in London recently. He demanded not only a highly questionable single currency and a central European bank to control our financial affairs, but a federal United States of Europe under which national sovereignty would be lost in practice and local parliaments reduced to the status of large county councils.

He cited our membership of Nato as a sign that we had already surrendered much sovereignty. When I asked if this meant that another attack on the Falklands could be resisted only with Nato's permission, he replied that the Falklands were outside the Nato area. He conveniently overlooked our withdrawal of large forces dedicated to Nato to repossess the islands and that we would have ignored any Nato objection.

Sir Leon and his Brussels confreres are so unimpressed by a vision of their ruling us through a federal government that they regard a level playing field and the observance of the single market trade rules as of secondary importance.

Sir Leon dismissed complaints that the common agricultural policy, with its prime object of featherbedding German, French and Italian farmers, costs the average family in Britain £16 a week more for its food than it should. He said agriculture represents only 7 per cent of the EC's total production, yet it takes two thirds of its budget; CAP fraud amounts to anything up to £6,000 million a year, as noted by a House of Lords select committee last year.

For years now we have allowed free entry to foreign firms engaged in financial services, but Germany resolutely refuses to let ours operate there. Consequently, though far ahead of Germany in financial expertise, we have been denied several thousand million pounds a year by not being allowed to invest German pension funds, deal in their mortgages or life insurance or trade freely on Germany's scattered, inefficient stock exchanges with their brief, staggered hours of opening.

Costs of German coal production are now double those of British coal. In 1987 even the EC said that state subsidies for coal were £12 a tonne in Spain, £23 in France, £30 in Germany and a mere £2 a tonne in the UK. If Brussels had acted to stop these anti-EC subsidies we would not have had to close so many pits in a coal industry which is easily the most cost-effective in the EC, as is British agriculture. Instead the EC has given no time limit for a halt to Germany's unlawful general coal subsidies and has formally approved its huge subsidies for coking coal until the year 2000.

British industry pays far more for its energy than its competitors in the EC because Brussels is mesmerised by Germany. Nor does the EC stop France exporting heavily state-subsidised, below-cost nuclear electricity to Britain (we take the equivalent of seven million tonnes of coal a year) and elsewhere.

Instead of Brussels congratulating British Coal for its 90 per cent increase in productivity since 1985, it encourages vast state subsidies for energy for the rest of the EC to sabotage British Coal and our electricity industry.

It is to these pragmatic details that Brussels should attend instead of whinging that Britain will be left on the sidelines if we do not surrender political sovereignty to the EC. The EC cannot leave us on the sidelines. Exports from the other 11 countries to Britain are equivalent to nearly all our world balance-of-trade deficit and to a great part of Germany's vast trade surplus of around £30 billion a year. The EC needs us. We do not have to surrender any sovereignty to Sir Leon and his fellow Walter Mitty dreamers other than what we agree is necessary to achieve commercial and environmental objectives.

...and moreover

## ADRIAN DANNATT

For those of us who long for fame and are of a masochistic bent, nothing is more tempting than those mammoth biographies dedicated to the minutiae of legendary lives, charting first the squalor, then the progress through Bohemia and finally the curve of the graph up among the stars.

When younger I assumed, like so many others, that whatever I did was yet one more line for my future biographer, that any droll remark would later be excavated and reconstructed. I enjoyed creating work for PhD students, torturing them with my obscure activities.

As I grew older and less successful, I slowly began to reconsider my position in the biography stakes; now less of a vital index heading, supporting a long list of entries, I was more a leading bit player, the best friend who never quite fulfilled his potential, supporter and long-time buddy.

I adjusted to this role with surprising ease. As younger friends of mine were acclaimed for their first novels, as childhood companions scooped Harvard scholarships, as that slightly dim acquaintance was hailed as a leading thespian, I began to look forward to retelling their tales. At least this way I would get some sort of credit, an acknowledgement. Even better, I might sneak into a photograph or two. I began to stand very close to any associate likely to win future fame whenever a camera was near. As soon as I heard the whisper of a self-focusing lens I would leap to the nearest photo-celebrity and grab him round the waist, beaming into hopeful immortality.

But recently I began to ponder an even more depressing prospect, probably the nadir of biographic ranking, the worst imaginable scenario. In almost every biography there are examples of the truly tragic, the ultimate failures, the league of unknowns. In the midst of every photograph there is a girl smiling broadly, or a man winking, second from left, working so hard at being in the picture, sharing the pleasure of being young and ambitious, starting out together, forty or more years later the man sees

that yet one more book has been published about dear old Jack. Flipping through it casually, he checks the index. No, no, but that wasn't to be expected; then he turns to the photographs. And there, at last, he sees himself: so young, so memorable, laughing at destiny, surrounded by the old gang.

Smiling modestly, lingering on the photo caption, he runs through the familiar names, dum-de-dum-de-dum, and there he is: "unknown". Not just "unknown", but "unknown", as if firmly fenced off from the others lest he contaminate them with his obscurity. Now whenever I pose for a photograph that "unknown" hovers over my head, brackets like angel's wings.

Who determines these people's unknowability? The biographer? Other members of the group? Surely someone must have an idea who they are. Imagine the old survivors of the glory days gathered together with appointed biographer and research assistants. "And who is this here, where is this?" A black-and-white snapshot of a riotous party, everyone raising their glasses, arms linked around shoulders, friends forever. "Ah, Jim's farewell to Paris party, 1967," they cry in unison as the researcher scribbles in his pad. Without any prompting they identify the revellers. "Jim, Tony, Frances, Delphine..." Then a hush followed by long ums and ahs. "What was he called, a friend of Tony's wasn't he? Wasn't he called Adam or Andrew or something?"

How unmemorable do you have to be to get left this far behind, so that not a single person can recall your name? These unknowns must have originally been known by someone to be in the photo in the first place, though I suspect celebrities have very bad luck with gatecrashers. Now I am so nervously fascinated by these non-people that I would welcome correspondence from those who have found themselves so labelled, who lust for revenge or at least the recognition of an addenda in the paperback edition. Perhaps my forthcoming volume, *Unknowns: The Missing Celebrities*, will win me the fame I merit.

# Devotion to a just cause that made Gow a marked man

BY TH

Conor Cruise O'Brien explains his own path towards the Unionist beliefs that the victim of yesterday's bomb attack so resolutely upheld

Five years ago, Ian Gow sacrificed a promising political career for the sake of a cause: the union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Yesterday, in that same cause, Ian Gow lost his life. He died in almost exactly the same way that another champion of that cause, his friend Airey Neave, died 11 years ago.

I did not know Ian Gow well, but I liked and admired him, and had hoped to get to know him better. When I first met him, a phrase used more than once by Edmund Burke came to my mind: "The sunshine of the soul". By that, Burke meant an inward serenity, derived from doing right, without regard for the cost. To know Ian Gow was to be aware of that quality in him.

Hearing the terrible news yesterday, I wondered how best I might honour his memory. I cannot do better than by writing about the cause for which Ian Gow sacrificed his career, and for which he risked and lost his life.

In 1985, Ian Gow resigned from his government post because he believed that the Anglo-Irish Agreement, concluded in November of that year, put at risk the union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Mrs Thatcher argued that the agreement actually strengthened it. Ian Gow acknowledged her sincerity in that belief, but thought she was wrong. That he was right and she was wrong was demonstrated in March this year with a decision by the Irish Supreme Court.

Its finding that "the reintegration of the national territory is a constitutional imperative" showed that the agreement is actually incompatible with the union, and that the Irish parties are bound, by their fundamental law, to work towards its dissolution and to use the agreement for that end.

I hope that some of those who will

be doing honour to Ian Gow's memory will consider anew his argument and the legal decision that vindicated it. Reconsideration should lead to the suspension of the agreement, which should not be resumed until Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution are appropriately amended. That was Ian Gow's position, as it is my own.

In theory, the IRA opposes the Anglo-Irish Agreement. In reality, members of the IRA like it, as was evident from the smile on the face of Gerry Adams, of Sinn Féin, when it was drawn up. They like it because the Unionists hate it. They also like it because they see in it — and in the "Brooke initiative" — signs of a weakening of Britain's will to remain in Northern Ireland. In Ian Gow that will remained intact. That is why he was murdered.

Article 2 of the Irish constitution is also an article of faith with the IRA, because it was part of Irish Republican ideology long before de Valera made it part of the constitution in 1937. The fact that Britain did not jib at that article when entering into the Anglo-Irish Agreement was among the factors that suggested to the IRA that the British government wants to escape from Northern Ireland. And the fact that Ian Gow did jib at it, and was prepared to resign over it, marked him out for death.

I last met Ian Gow in the House of Commons. I had come, at his request, to talk to his association, the Friends of the Union. As a matter of fact, I was a little surprised to find myself among them, for my own background is entirely Irish nationalist. As I told that audience, my maternal grandfather, David Sheehy, sat in the Commons for 33 years as a nationalist, seeking to dissolve the very union whose friends I was addressing.

But the Provisional IRA turned



me against any attempt to unite Ireland. Efforts to move in that direction by political pressure while the IRA was killing people for the same end came to seem to me like collusion with the IRA. I respect the Unionists of Northern Ireland who suffer the double pressure of a murder campaign and of political intrigue which, while ostensibly opposed to the IRA, relies on it for political leverage. So I felt it a duty, as a member of a community and a tradition that has nurtured the IRA, to speak out against all that.

Nevertheless, I thought twice

about accepting the invitation to address the Friends of the Union. All my early training spoke against it. I was brought up to believe that the union between Great Britain and Ireland had been wrong, and that the union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was still wrong.

I came to have doubts about the latter proposition when I found that a majority of the population of Northern Ireland were determined to remain the union. I was told, however, that the island was the "natural and indivisible unit" and that in this unit the Unionists were a minority whose democratic

duty was to accept incorporation into a united Ireland in accordance with the will of the majority in the island. This was received doctrine in the culture in which I was brought up, and such cultural assumptions are difficult to shake off.

I didn't fully shake it off until the IRA campaign got going, in 1971. I could see that that campaign was the bitter fruit of this assumption and others like it. I could also see that the nationalists who supported the campaign — or, much more common, condemned and condoned it — were actually imperialists. They complained that the British had kept the Irish in the United Kingdom against their will; now they were trying to include the Unionists in a united Ireland against their will.

As for the argument about an island being "an indivisible unit", I did not realise what nonsense that is until I was sitting in a committee of the United Nations General Assembly during a debate on "self-determination" and preparing to defend my country's official position.

From the beginning of the IRA campaign, I publicly defended the right of the Unionist majority to remain in the United Kingdom. But I did not, until comparatively recently, see that this position logically requires defence of the union itself, and made me personally a Unionist. I had not imagined, when I began to denounce the IRA, that so profound an existential transmutation would be required of me. For in Ireland, Unionist and Nationalist are not just political descriptions; they have profound cultural, social, religious and moral implications. To be born and brought up as a member of one lot, and then turn into a member of the other, is almost as disturbing as one of Kafka's metamorphoses.

So when Ian Gow invited me to address the Friends of the Union, clearly recognizing me as already a Unionist, he was welcoming me, as it were, from a longer journey than I think he can have imagined. I am now glad that I accepted Ian Gow's invitation. And I hope that the cause he stood for so bravely will prove the stronger for his untimely death.

## Smaller army with a bigger punch

Frank Kitson sees the BAOR cutback as an opportunity to institute some overdue reforms

Last Wednesday, the defence secretary, Tom King, outlined cuts in the armed forces which the government intends to make in response to recent developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. How will these affect the army?

The army does not consist of separate parts, each earmarked for a particular commitment. On the contrary, the whole army, including auxiliaries and reservists, has to be ready to handle any situation that may arise. Thus, for example, the British Army of the Rhine acts also as a reservoir from which units can be drawn to help carry out other commitments, just as units stationed elsewhere can be diverted to the continent if required. Over recent decades, however, the specialisation of equipment and training needed to prepare a large number of units for the European commitment has taken an enormous proportion of the army's manpower and money, which has led to shortcomings in units dedicated to more likely but less important tasks elsewhere.

New circumstances have enabled the government to plan to

reduce the number of troops stationed in Germany, but there is no reason to reduce the army's capacity to cope with unexpected developments in other parts of the world. The army still has responsibilities in Hong Kong, Cyprus, Belize and the Falklands, as well as for evacuating British nationals from trouble spots around the world if necessary. Even if some of these commitments disappear, others will crop up — if past experience is anything to go by — and it is impossible to predict the form they will take.

In the recent past we have been involved in a small conventional war in the Falklands and have helped allies in Borneo and Oman. We sent a sizeable contingent to Korea to help an ally in a full-scale war. More often we have been involved in counter-insurgency or peacekeeping operations, as we still are in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Namibia and Sinai. On top of this, the army still has a responsibility for the security of the United Kingdom, even though no obvious threat is discernible at present.

In this whole unpredictable

area, two things stand out. The first is that although numbers deployed are small compared with those required for a major war, the liability usually continues for longer than expected, so that the original units have to be relieved many times over. The second is that the reduction in the overall size of the army resulting from the withdrawals from Germany will reduce the pool from which replacements can be found.

Given that we are keeping a first-class nuclear deterrent, the reductions in the European commitment planned by the government make sense. But these cuts relate only to Europe. In other areas the army should improve its ability so as to make up for previous shortcomings and to compensate for the loss of numbers. This means that a proportion of the amount saved in Europe, particularly in the research and production of weapons and equipment, should be diverted to this requirement.

Meanwhile, the reduction in the army's overall strength and the consequent disbandment of units will inevitably cause much pain.

The British army's greatest strength is its regimental system, which over the years has provided a succession of operational units that have triumphed over every sort of disaster. For combat troops — the infantry and the armoured corps — the regiment is home, and to have one's home demolished is a devastating experience, regardless of whether it was built several centuries ago or in the past few decades. Suggestions that foot-slogging infantrymen are ideally suited to becoming bobbies on the beat or prison warders may raise a laugh, but they do nothing to raise morale.

But out of tribulation comes the opportunity for reform, and although the British army is highly effective compared with most other armies, there are certainly ways in which it can be improved.

First, the regimental system should be rearranged and strengthened, the links between regiments of the regular and the territorial army in particular being reinforced. Next, the chain of command throughout the army and in the ministry of defence should be simplified to remove

the duplication that causes delay in decision-making and wastes staff resources. It is most important to free the officer career structure from dependence on age, so that able men can be promoted according to ability. This is essential if operational commanders are to be appointed young enough and if high-calibre officers are to be retained. It is said that the only institution that ties promotion to age as rigidly as the army is British Rail, and that can at least look forward to privatisation.

All in all, the changes and cuts now required will achieve a better balance between readiness for a European war and readiness for the other sorts of operation that constantly confront us. A smaller army will also make it easier to find recruits of the desired standard. The extent to which the present round of cuts can be combined with much-needed reform will determine whether the army becomes, in the secretary of state's words, better as well as smaller. General Sir Frank Kitson, C-in-C UK Land Forces, 1982-5, is author of *Warfare as a Whole and Directing Operations*.

## Gow's great regret

Just weeks before his murder, Ian Gow and his wife travelled secretly to Belfast and spent a weekend under the very noses of the IRA, which must even then have been plotting to kill him, as guests of the Northern Ireland secretary, Peter Brooke.

Gow, who had a wide circle of friends on both sides of the border, enjoyed the visit immensely. One of the highlights was a royal garden party at Hillsborough Castle attended by the Queen Mother. "Although Ian and Peter Brooke didn't entirely see eye to eye on Northern Ireland policy, Ian came back from Belfast describing Brooke as a very big man who had given him a marvellous time," says a friend.

But Gow's opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement caused a rift in his previously close relationship with the prime minister. Only last week, over a drink with a friend, he complained of this "sadness" that Mrs Thatcher did not seek him out for a chat about politics, as once she used to.

Despite his dour appearance, Gow relished good company and stimulating conversation. "Fellow MPs were often hauled away from the House at short notice by Ian to share what he called 'a bowl of sherry' at his favourite haunt, the Cavalry Club," says Michael Brown, who shared a Commons office with him for 12 years. "He was such an entertaining man that when he dictated letters to consultants, my secretary was so riveted by what he was saying that she ended up taking down his dictation instead of mine."

Gow remained close to the family of Airey Neave, who was murdered in similar circum-

stances in 1979. The nature of Gow's death has of course brought back terrible memories for Lady Neave and her family. "We are deeply upset and very, very sorry," says Elizabeth Neave, wife of Airey's son, Patrick. "We were very good friends."

## Trail of glory

One might not think that Croydon, quintessential semi-detached suburbia, could provide enough material for a museum, but that is not the view of the local council, which is putting up £500,000 to establish one in the town hall. "Part of the challenge is to create a museum in a place that people scorn," it says. "Croydon is seen by many simply



as a place where commuters catch a fast train to London, but it is much more than that."

Indeed, Croydon housed London's first airport — Army Johnson landed there after her record flight from Australia in 1930 — and in the 1920s it was home to a mini-Hollywood, or at least a budding Elstree. Both, alas, are now defunct. Even the post-war office blocks dominating the town centre deserve an honourable mention.



says the council. "People hate them. They think Croydon has been ruined. But that in itself is part of the Croydon story."

## Second opinion

A frisson of embarrassment has passed through the Department of Health after the discovery that thousands of copies of the new government booklet outlining NHS reforms had been sent out containing brochures extolling the virtues of a private health insurance scheme.

A spokesman explained that the inserts had made their way into some of the 20 million booklets because the Post Office had unwittingly added them as part of a home-delivery contract. Doctored booklets are known to have been delivered in Reading, Cambridge, York and Twickenham. The Post Office maintains it had no idea what the government literature was about.

## Cleaning up

Des Wilson, tireless campaigner for the homeless, cleaner air and other good causes, seems to have struck a rich vein with his first novel, the sex-thriller *Costa del Sol*. Although most reviewers regard it more as a political curiosity than as a

notable addition to the genre — Wilson is now the Liberal Democrats' general election campaign manager — advance orders stand at 25,000 and he has just sold the film rights for an undisclosed sum. He hopes that some household names will appear in the film, which will probably be made for television.

MacDonald Sphere, his publisher, is so pleased that it has commissioned him to write a second novel, appropriately to be called *Campaign*. "It's about a major international and environmental campaign," he says. "It will not be autobiographical but will call on many of my experiences in the campaign field." So is Wilson about to become the Lib-Dem equivalent of Jeffrey Archer? "It would be lovely to make that sort of money, but I'm not in that league," he says.

● *The Francis Hock mystery deepens*. On Saturday the *Diary* reported the abortive efforts by the Arts Council to trace a Mr and Mrs of that name to thank them for a £1.1 million gift. Now Hugh Robinson, a retired stockbroker, reports that in the 1960s he befriended a Francis Hock in Venice. His attributes certainly match those of the Arts Council benefactor — a wealthy merchant banker, quiet and unassuming, and keen on opera. Only one snag: "He's been dead for a few years," says Robinson.

## Shuffled off

At least one story has been left out of the plot of the pantomime dame character Mrs Shufflewick, who came to fame on BBC Radio. The late Rex Jameson, who created the part, was fond of a drink too many after his act at theatres and music halls.

Actor Gerald Moon, who plays Mrs Shufflewick in the production, *Al and Shuf*, recalls: "Rex once brought the house down in the first half of a variety night at the London Palladium, changed into his ordinary clothes and went round to the front of house, very much the worse for wear. He staggered up the stairs demanding to be let in to his reserved seat. The doorman refused. 'But I'm the star of the show,' said Jameson. 'That's my name in lights outside.' 'Oh yes?' said the doorman — and threw him out."

## Giggles galore

Asking in the glow of universal affection during the week of her 90th birthday, the Queen Mother will no doubt be pleased to learn that her remarks about T.S. Eliot have finally elicited a response from the poet's widow, Valerie.

Earlier this month A.N. Wilson published in *The Spectator* his controversial account of a dinner conversation with the Queen Mother, who recalled how Eliot recited his masterpiece, *The Waste Land*, at a wartime poetry reading at Windsor Castle. "We had this rather lugubrious man in a suit," the Queen Mum is quoted as saying. "First the girls got the giggles, and then I did, and then even the King. I'm afraid we all giggled. Such a gloomy man, looked as though he worked in a bank, and we didn't understand a word."

Far from upset by the description, Mrs Eliot found it wryly amusing. Now a director of Faber and Faber, she says: "I can assure you that my husband would have laughed at Mr Wilson's anecdote. In the words of his own self-deprecating poem, 'How unpleasant to meet Mr Eliot'."

هكذا من الضحك





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## BY THEIR DEEDS

Ian Gow was an honest and forthright politician who would have been proud to fall on the same battlefield as the three RUC officers and a nun murdered by the IRA in Northern Ireland last week, and all the other victims of this campaign of killing. He was run in — the highest form of bravery. Mr Gow, most distinguished backbencher, was killed yesterday because he refused to be intimidated into silence, as he showed in public statements after last week's bloodletting in Northern Ireland. Blinking in the face of threats was for him unthinkable.

Mr Gow held the prime minister in particular affection, an affection reciprocated. Mrs Thatcher was to this extent the indirect target of yesterday's killing, as she was in the case of her close friend, the late Airey Neave, murdered by the IRA in 1979. If there was nothing behind the attack on Mr Gow other than malice towards Mrs Thatcher and a desire to cause her pain, then the IRA certainly scored. She and Mr Gow had disagreed, but his resignation from her government in protest at the Anglo-Irish Agreement did not damage the respect in which he was held by his parliamentary colleagues — and by her. Because he admired the prime minister so much, that resignation cost him great anguish. For Mrs Thatcher, the country will once again feel a surge of protective sympathy.

Politicians prepared to resign on issues of principle are not two-a-penny, and the elimination of one more of them will dilute the quality of public life. The IRA has shown it will kill anybody who makes a convenient sym-

bolic target, whether soft or hard. But to kill a parliamentarian who has made a particular point of acting like one is to shout crude defiance at democracy. It is to assert that there is no resolution of conflicting viewpoints other than through the gun and the bullet, an assertion the IRA must know that no modern community can tolerate. Hardly since the birth of Nazism has Europe seen so blatant a repudiation of democracy in favour of force.

Democracy must none the less be careful how it responds. The IRA has long been embarked on a strategy of subversion by terror to which history can lend some credence, though surely not in Britain's case. It wishes to traumatise British political life by its outrages. It would like to see ministers encased in bullet-proof armour, railings go up round public buildings, public engagements cancelled, Irishmen and women martyred by hanging, free speech curtailed, the IRA rendered a mysterious and, to its fanatical supporters, glamorous, agency of terror. Of course, steps must and will be taken to maintain sensible measures of security round public figures. But the IRA wants more than this. It wants a Britain consumed by hysterical reaction, a Britain on the run, publicly terrified. For through terror comes doubt, through doubt comes exhaustion, through exhaustion comes defeat.

The status of British policy in Northern Ireland is immaterial to the killing of Mr Gow and should not, therefore, be discussed in the same breath. To do so would be to permit terror to dictate the democratic agenda. There is only one response to terror: calmly and quietly to continue about our daily business, unterrified.

## ANC CALLED TO ACCOUNT

South Africa's political time warp is well illustrated by the spectacle of its domestic Communist party, with a creed palpably brain-dead in the rest of the world, celebrating a coming out party in Soweto at the weekend. The long exile, mostly in Zambia, of the South African Communist Party (SACP) and its blood brother, the African National Congress (ANC) created perfect conditions for the flourishing of the secrecy and otherworldliness of such ideological cabals.

The unbanning last February of the SACP, along with the ANC, was one of the more astonishing acts of W. P. de Klerk's Nationalist government in Pretoria. As the SACP now moves into the light, its public appeal may wither and that of the non-communist parts of the ANC grow instead. This must be the hope of the moderates within the government, and within the ANC, as the pace of negotiation quickens in the second half of this year. Yet a non-communist ANC will only emerge as a political force in its own right if the ANC proves itself capable of establishing some democratic accountability to a majority of the black population.

The SACP has long been suspected of providing more than two thirds of the ANC's national executive in exile. The support of the Eastern bloc, especially East Germany, for the ANC in the pre-Gorbachev years turned gratitude into loyalty. The SACP's disciplined and until this year narrowly Stalinist organisation provided the only efficient element within the larger and more incoherent liberation movement.

But the debts of the past are no guide to the future. The "fraternal relationship" may still be close, as the cast list at the Soweto rally suggests. But the pressures on the legalised ANC are now proving intense: pressures from the townships, from the domestic United Democratic Front, from the trade union movement, from student and teacher groups and from exiles returning from all over Africa and points north.

All these pressures are reflected in a confused, ever-changing clique, with nobody daring to suggest how it might establish its own credentials as a democratic party to take part in

negotiations on the future of a democratic nation. The least that might now be expected of the ANC is a renunciation of the communist manifesto, which exists to provoke a marxist revolution which would be incompatible with Nelson Mandela's frequent promises to respect the profit motive. But the ANC must do more than this. Its leaders must establish a legitimacy beyond the distinction of having been leaders in exile or jail. They should be elected by their newly legalised membership. That is the necessary foundation for the country-wide elections which it wants to see instituted soon.

The failure of the ANC's leaders to secure a democratic mandate, despite frequent appeals from friends at home and abroad to do so, has added to the confusion as rival factions — notably the well-organised and communist-dominated trade union movement — scramble for power. Some of these are hedging their bets against the breakdown of negotiations or against the threat from other black organisations, by secreting arms and ammunition as insurance for the future. They encourage far-right militants eager for a chance to stage a coup against Mr de Klerk.

The ANC's answer to this confusion has been to prolong it. By delaying its own plenary conference until December it has given the SACP a head start in mobilising its support into party structures. Unless the non-communist ANC leaders can demonstrate their superior claims to speak for black South Africans, there is a risk that South Africa's communists will acquire a dominance which they do not deserve.

The ANC must recognise that its authority can only derive from the popular will. There would be no shortage of outside funds to pay for an intra-party election. Habits of oligarchy bred in exile may die hard. But the ANC is running out of reasons for dodging the great democratic issue of legitimacy. The longer it prolongs the dodging, the more likely is ensuing chaos. A future for South Africa which offers a choice between a last laboratory of communism or intercaste tribal conflict is not a pleasant prospect. Just now, there is a chance of avoiding it.

## NO CREDIT FOR GORBACHEV

Banking is economic activity at its most abstract, sophisticated and fragile. It is ill-suited to the regimentation which afflicts centrally planned economies. It depends on a legal framework, permitting variety and choice for investors to have confidence that their savings are safe. President Gorbachev, by a decree which reasserts central control of state banks throughout the Soviet Union, has subordinated the future prosperity of his people to his own, increasingly opaque, political goals.

Because Soviet private savings have been liable to arbitrary expropriation, and if held in hard currency were likely to have been earned illegally, ordinary citizens have never relied on the state banking system. Hence the tragicomic phenomenon, mirrored elsewhere in the communist world, of hoards of paper money secreted under beds. Hard currency hoards alone probably amount to billions of dollars, which are denied to the Soviet economy because their owners cannot be persuaded to entrust them to the state.

At this stage in Soviet history, when the change from a planned to a market economy has been mooted but scarcely begun, there is no guarantee that the embryonic governments of the republics would necessarily be readier to free their state banks than is Moscow. Some, indeed, might try to assert their independence by zealous protection of the state's monopoly of credit against private enterprise.

This would not matter, provided at least one republic pressed ahead with the establishment of banks outside state ownership. These need not be private companies. Other forms of ownership, like the British building society or the German Sparkasse, might be more suitable for the small saver. Provided their legal status was clear, millions would speedily invest their savings in the new institutions. Other republics would be forced to follow suit or else watch their own banks wither away. If the republics let people buy their own homes, businesses or

farms from the state, using credit from the new banks, a modern banking system could soon emerge; just in time to supply industry with the capital it needs.

None of this can now happen, at least until a new treaty between individual republics and the Soviet Union has been signed. Fear that the republics might impede the introduction of the market was never Mr Gorbachev's reason for this use of his prerogative. Rather, he accused the supreme soviet of the republics of promoting "the disruption of the country's single monetary system and the introduction of republican money with a closed circulation".

Whether or not Russia's Boris Yeltsin and the other republican leaders were considering imitating a Ukrainian plan for monetary autonomy, the creation of new currencies should pose no threat to the Soviet economy. Rivals for the rouble should hasten the demise of the old system, by helping to draw the sting of suppressed inflation. Hoards of rouble savings are an inevitable consequence of centralised pricing and of an industry geared to the needs of the state rather than of the consumer. Competing currencies would force Moscow to devalue the rouble and switch off the printing presses.

Mr Gorbachev's real reasons for his banking decree are political. He is no more eager to hand over control of the Russian money supply to Mr Yeltsin than Margaret Thatcher is to subordinate the Bank of England to a European central bank. Yet a private system of consumer credit for the Soviet Union could be accomplished without surrendering control of the money supply to the republics. By delaying the emergence of an indigenous and independent banking network, Mr Gorbachev may thwart his political rivals. The cost will be high. Without private banks, Soviet savings will remain inert. And without those dollars, Mr Gorbachev's economic policy is doomed.

## Preventing bias in broadcasting

From the Chief Executive of Channel 4 Television

Sir, Your editorial (July 25) rightly ridicules the reasoning and motives which lie behind the moves to construct an absurd and unworkable strait-jacket of "balance" for broadcasting. Far from delivering the Holy Grail of perfect balance, the proposed structure would deprive a viewing public of programmes of all kinds which it views with appreciation, not alarm.

But the risibility of the proposed mechanism should not, in itself, make us complacent. Perhaps there are enough of our legislators who have so little time to watch television that they rely on the flawed and partisan "research" of the Media Monitoring Unit to inform their opinions.

Perhaps others may not have realised that the major losers under the proposals would not be that non-existent conspiracy of broadcasters which dominates their imaginations, but the British people as a whole whose access to information and opinion would be severely curtailed.

Even half-baked attacks on our freedoms should be resisted with great vigour, lest they succeed because of a half-hearted defence.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL GRADE,  
Chief Executive,  
Channel 4 Television,  
60 Charlotte Street, W1,  
July 26.

From Mr Graham Riddick, MP for Colne Valley (Conservative)

Sir, Your editorial, "Unbalancing broadcasters", acknowledged that "those in charge of broadcasting have an obligation to the fair use of the influence that their oligopoly gives them." However the rest of the editorial criticised those parliamentarians attempting to achieve exactly that.

Both the BBC and IBA already have detailed codes setting out clear impartiality rules which some broadcasters frequently ignore with apparent impunity. That is why it is important to contain clear impartiality rules within the bill. Perhaps some broadcasters are happy to have impartiality rules so long as nobody intends them to be applied.

Your editorial contended that tight impartiality rules would "reduce all television programming to the level of party political broadcasting." Party political broadcasts are boring for the very reason that they only project one side of the argument. Programmes like BBC 1's *On the Record* and Channel 4's *A Week in Politics* are proof that political programmes can be both challenging and balanced.

Had Lord Wyatt's proposal of having a balancing programme within one month of a one-sided programme been in operation over recent years not one programme need have been withdrawn. However, additional programmes to balance one-sided programmes would also have been required. Why is it that some broadcasters do not wish viewers to see both sides of contentious issues?

I suspect, however, that Wyatt's proposal of a balancing programme would provide the necessary incentive to programme makers to ensure that their programmes were impartial in the first place. Is that not the least that viewers deserve and an objective which *The Times* should support?

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM RIDDICK,  
House of Commons,  
July 26.

## Hanson 'fee'

From Mr Theo. H. Richardson

Sir, The issue of the proposed Hanson "fee" (report, July 30) is clouded, possibly by misunderstanding the law. A purchaser may withdraw an offer at any time before it is accepted. If a vendor wishes to test the market after receiving an offer he may find no other suitable purchaser but in the meantime the offer is withdrawn so the vendor loses his sale.

If the purchaser is to remain bound by his offer (even though not yet accepted) there must be a subsidiary contract to that effect. This would be unenforceable unless a fee (or other consideration) is paid to the purchaser.

The proposed Hanson fee is not for making an offer but for agreeing not to withdraw it for a specified time. This appears to be entirely legitimate.

Yours faithfully,  
T. H. RICHARDSON,  
Doberman, Richardson, Broady  
and Horsman (Solicitors),  
College Chambers,  
92/94 Borough Road,  
Middlesbrough, Cleveland,  
July 30.

## 45 years on

From Miss Louisa Scott

Sir, In the Second World War, to help the war effort, my great-great-aunt gave up the iron railings in front of her house, in which my family and I now live. In the proposed defence cuts, rather than swords into ploughshares, could a tiny tank, please, be made into railings so I can have mine back?

Yours faithfully,  
LOUISA SCOTT,  
24 Addison Avenue, W11,  
July 25.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

## Curbs on the private car in London

From Mr Sally Powell

Sir, It is very welcome to see Sir Keith Bright (July 26) advocating more bus services instead of fewer. Buses are the only way of increasing the availability of public transport in the short term but, for them to be effective, other traffic, particularly private cars, must be reduced during the peak periods.

There is, however, no reason why this approach should be confined to the peak hours. It is now widespread in Europe, particularly in Germany and Italy, for city centres to be limited to buses, cycles and pedestrians for most of the working day. Deliveries are permitted only during short periods in the morning and evening.

These cities are not just safer and more environmentally attractive but, the evidence shows, more successful economically than those which have retained high levels of car access and car parking. This is particularly important with the prospect of the Channel tunnel and the Single European Act turning London into a peripheral region of Europe.

Such an approach is also appropriate for parts of London, but requires a change of government attitude so that car use is no longer restrained by congestion, but by a desire to use our road network as effectively as possible, giving real priority to priority road users.

Yours faithfully,  
SALLY POWELL (Chairman,  
Planning, Economic Development  
and Transport Committee),  
Association of London Authorities,  
36 Old Queen Street, SW1,  
July 26.

From Mr David Hurdle

Sir, Sir Keith Bright should be given an immediate peerage and made Transport Secretary. What breath of fresh air he created with his comments on London's traffic congestion crisis.

Given the long lead time for new and faster British Rail and Tube lines, the only short-term answer to London's problem is better use of buses. That means not only more buses, but more enforceable bus priority measures such as bus-only lanes and streets, with sensible penalties for drivers who contravene the regulations.

Sir Keith's suggestion that inconsiderate drivers who deliberately flout the law should have their licences taken away may seem tough, but only because we live in a car-orientated society with topsy-turvy priorities. A drastic problem warrants drastic action.

Plenty of people willingly risk a paltry fine by driving where they shouldn't — I wonder how many would risk a ban? Similarly, a couple of noughts added to the

average parking fine would constitute a real deterrent, and would make our capital's traffic-choked roads flow more smoothly.

It has to be stressed that the success of such measures would lie in the proper enforcing of the law. On illegal parking, government approval for current proposals to give local authorities enforcement powers would guarantee a swift improvement on the 1989 Home Office statistics which show that 49 of every 50 illegal parkers go unpunished.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID HURDLE  
(Planning and Transport Officer),  
London Boroughs Association,  
23 Buckingham Gate, SW1,  
July 27.

From Mr Edmund King  
Sir, Parkinson's new Red Route law (report, July 24) can ease congestion for all modes of travel without the draconian measures of banning delivery vehicles and private motorists.

Some are claiming that red routes will merely create fast-flowing freeways, whilst others suggest they will fill up but not speed up.

Both miss the point. The concept is to obtain the most efficient use of road space for all road users without building more roads. Extra capacity created on the red routes can be used as bus lanes. Freer flowing traffic, unimpeded by illegally parked vehicles, will benefit bus users, car drivers, ambulances and the environment.

Yours faithfully,  
EDMUND KING  
(Secretary),  
Movement for London,  
Pillar House,  
194-202 Old Kent Road, SE1,  
July 26.

From Mr Andrew Turner

Sir, Keith Bright's commendation of bus-only streets coincided fortuitously with reports that taxis may be permitted to ply for hire in the royal parks.

The parks are a significant obstacle to effective public transport. Nodes like Hyde Park Corner and Parliament Square are particularly congested. Yet there are excellent by-passes — such as the Mall and Serpentine Road — available for that most anti-social of vehicles, the private motor car. Were buses permitted in the parks, and cars banned, the time-benefit so attractive to the motorist would disappear. He might even leave his car at home to the advantage of other road users in the West End.

Your obedient servant,  
ANDREW TURNER,  
14 Lord North Street, SW1,  
July 27.

## Sex and pornography

From Mr Trevor Price

Sir, Whilst it may be difficult to prove the cause-and-effect argument relating to sex crimes and the use of pornography by sex abusers and paedophiles (report, July 20), it is nevertheless an inescapable fact that pornography plays a significant part in reinforcing the distorted thinking, delusions and myths that they use to sustain their behaviour.

Soft pornography is often used by paedophiles to entrap children and to imply that their actions are "normal" because they are depicted in freely-available printed material. In treatment we have to confront the illegal behaviour patterns that have been reinforced and normalised by the effects of soft pornography.

The pain and damage caused to our children and others cannot be ignored on the grounds that the so-called "normal" male is not induced to offend by the availability of pornographic material.

Yours etc.,  
TREVOR PRICE  
(Chief Executive),  
Gracwell Clinic,  
81 Walkers Heath Road,  
Kings Norton,  
Birmingham, West Midlands,  
July 26.

## Arts funding

From Mr Simon Mundy

Sir, Your editorial on arts spending ("Merrie Kingdom", July 19) refers to opera attendances having risen despite a trebling in prices. This is true and welcome, but the greatest increase in audiences has been found in those companies outside London where the principle of using public money to foster public access has been maintained.

More people now want to go to the opera in Britain than ever before. Too many still cannot, either because of the ticket prices or because we still have too few companies to satisfy the demand. At the beginning of the 1980s that point was recognised by a House of Commons select committee.

## Museum cuts

From Dr Penny Wheatcroft

Sir, Your Science and Technology feature "Planting doubt about greenhouse theories" (July 24) very clearly set out the international importance of the innovative work of Natural History Museum palaeobotanist Chris Hill in studies of global warming.

Dr Hill's work on cycads, some of the world's most endangered tropical plants, was indeed received with excitement by scientists at a conference in Queensland, Australia, this week. But Dr Hill himself was absent, because the museum had withdrawn its contribution to funding his attendance, even though Dr Hill raised half the funding himself.

This ludicrous decision typifies

## Language teaching

From Mr Russell H. Sage

Sir, In 1929, when I went to Queen Mary College (then East London College) to read for an honours degree in French, I was surprised to find that students of all three years of the honours course were all instructed together and entirely in French (letters, July 12, 21). This was the case not just for lectures on literature but for translation classes (from and into French) and linguistic studies including the detailed study of prescribed medieval texts.

Coming from a provincial secondary school, where the direct method was unheard of, I was quite lost at first but in a remarkably short time was able to follow the gist of the lectures and by the end of the first year I could take down verbatim lectures of literary criticism couched in stylish and flowery French, using a kind of speed-writing we all devised for the task.

I can speak for at least one other student of the class, for she eventually became my wife. We both obtained first-class honours in 1932.

Yours faithfully,  
RUSSELL H. SAGE,  
The Willows, Cock Marsh,  
Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

We still do not have the resources

or the theatres. You attack the use of the word "funding", instead of "subsidy". The reason we use the former is simple. The Treasury, as can be deduced from your figures, makes a whacking profit on the seed money it puts into the arts. Were it to be doubled the return would still be excellent in commercial terms. So there is little point in using a word which has come to have inaccurate and pejorative connotations.

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON MUNDY  
(Director),  
National Campaign for the Arts,  
Francis House,  
Francis Street, SW1,  
July 20.

the illogicality of the Corporate Plan. Palaeobotany is not the only victim. The museum's arbitrary cuts in areas of science were made in isolation, in response to underfunding, and without apparent thought of the consequences worldwide. But the director, trustees and the minister for the arts (the museum's funding department) have now received so many hundreds of protest letters that they surely cannot continue to ignore the general outrage about the cuts.

Yours faithfully,  
PENNY WHEATCROFT  
(Chairman, Natural History  
Museum Branch),  
Institution of Professionals,  
Managers and Specialists,  
Cromwell Road, SW7,  
July 24.

## Tolerance of law in Hong Kong

From the Commissioner, Hong Kong Government Office

Sir, Your leader "Appeasement in Peking" (July 24) makes a number of assertions which I should like to address.

First, whatever may be the sentiment here in Britain, the people of Hong Kong support the visit to China by a British minister. They know that their future prosperity and stability are governed by a smooth transition to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. Notwithstanding concern over the events in 1989, this can be achieved only if there is dialogue and a good working relationship between all parties concerned.

Second, the Hong Kong government makes no secret of the fact that it will not permit the territory to be used as a base for anti-Chinese subversion. This is not appeasement but plain common sense. What the political adviser actually said to the New China News Agency in Hong Kong last year was that no group in Hong Kong has any more tolerance than the law allows. It is a policy which has the support of the Hong Kong community.

Third, it is nonsense to suggest that a trial involving people charged with the illegal use of loudhailers is "political". The fact is that in Hong Kong's highly urbanised environment the use of loudhailers can cause excessive disturbance to the public. It is entirely appropriate therefore that their use should be controlled. Equally, it is a distortion to suggest that this case "makes a mockery of the right of assembly and free speech". Provided the authorities are satisfied that no nuisance will be created, requests for the use of loudhailers are approved.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN YAKLEY,  
Hong Kong Government Office,  
6 Grafton Street, W1,  
July 26.

## NHS reforms

From Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, Mr Kenneth Clarke's robust rebuttal (July 21) of some of Dr LeFanu's points will be very reassuring to most patients of the NHS. Equally, the Government's booklet, "The NHS Reforms and You", which is now being delivered to all households is essential reading for the citizen who wishes — and who does not? — to make the most of his opportunities within a new-style health service.

Neither the booklet nor the letter, however, explains a most important point about budgeted practices which continues to be a source of major confusion from the medical profession and of major worry for the ordinary patient.

The booklet states without any further amplification that "GPs will receive sufficient funds to enable them to provide full and proper treatment for their patients. Even if the practice over-spends its funds, there is no question of patients not getting the treatment they need".

I would be very grateful to the Secretary of State if he would explain how in practice the apparent irreconcilability will be resolved.

Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN THWAITES,  
Miltonhorpe,  
Winchester, Hampshire,  
July 23.

## Baptism bar

From the Reverend Stephen Trott

Sir, Mr Riviere (July 26) is mistaken about the baptismal requirements of the Book of Common Prayer: In the service of Public Baptism of Infants the god-parents must declare their faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed, and the parents are to be instructed that they share the same responsibilities. In this respect the Prayer Book has recently been brought mainly into line with modern Canon Law and with the requirements of the Alternative Service Book.

Whatever opinion one has about strict baptismal policies, however, or the relative merits of the BCP or ASB, it is instructive to note that in the New Testament, there is little evidence for the baptism of children of Christians, and none whatever for the baptism of children of unbelievers.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN TROTT,  
The Rectory,  
41 Humfrey Lane,  
Boughton, Northampton,  
July 26.

From Mr John Howard Gaze

Sir, If St John the Baptist had used the Alternative Service Book, no one would have been baptised.

I am, yours sincerely,  
J. H. GAZE (Parish Clerk),  
St Michael's Rectory,  
St Michael's Alley,  
Cornhill, EC3,  
July 27.

## Water carrier

From Mr P. J. Hirst

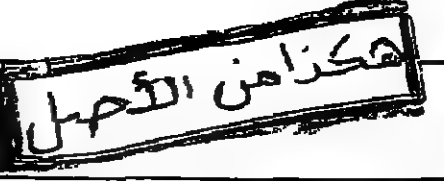
Sir, I live and work in Riyadh, which is in the middle of an arid desert region where mid-day temperatures at this time of the year reach 45°C. The public water supply seems abundant and the tap water is fit to drink.

I am shortly going to the UK on leave. Should I take some water? Yours faithfully,  
P. J. HIRST,  
PO Box 1732,  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,  
July 26.









Look that your mind may be  
opened to see God's love to  
you that you will not  
be able to which he has  
called you and how true his  
promises to his people  
Ephesians 1:18 GNB

BIRTHS

**BAXTER** - On July 26th 1990  
at St. Mary's Hospital, a son,  
James Alexander, to  
Mrs. Margaret Baxter and  
Mr. John Baxter.

**BELLHOUSE** - On July 26th,  
at St. Mary's Hospital, a son,  
Frederick, to Mrs. Margaret  
Bellhouse and Mr. John Bellhouse.

**BLACK** - On July 26th at St. Mary's  
Hospital, a son, to Mrs. Margaret  
Black and Mr. John Black.

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ON THIS DAY

1900

THE assassination of King Humbert  
was one of a number of anarchist  
outrages in 1900. During the year  
attempts were made on the lives of  
the shah of Persia, the German  
emperor and, in Brussels, the Prince  
of Wales. The king's assassin escaped  
not only a lynching but also the  
capital punishment in 1898.

ASSASSINATION  
OF THE KING OF  
ITALY.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

**MONZA JULY 29.**  
King Humbert was assassinated  
here this evening. His Majesty had  
been attending a distribution of  
prizes in connection with a gymnastic  
competition, and had just entered his  
carriage, with his aide-de-camp,  
amid the cheers of the crowd, when  
he was struck by three shots from a  
revolver fired in quick succession.  
One pierced his heart and the  
other two hit his chest and arm.  
His Majesty fell back and died in a few  
moments. His assassin was at once  
arrested, but was with some difficulty  
saved from the fury of the people. He  
gave his name as Angelo Bressi...

The following are further particulars  
of the assassination of the King.  
His Majesty had accepted the  
invitation of the committee of the  
Provincial Athletic Club to be  
present at the distribution of prizes  
when the meeting held yesterday.  
At 9.30 p.m. the King accordingly  
drove to the Palazzo, or ground on  
which the sports were held, and was  
received by the authorities and a  
large crowd of the general public, by  
whom his Majesty was warmly  
cheered.

After presiding at the distribution  
of prizes, which lasted about an hour,  
the King left the Palazzo, and was  
just starting in a closed carriage to  
return to the Royal Palace when four  
revolver shots were suddenly fired by  
a man standing among the crowd.  
The King was hit by three bullets,  
one of which struck his Majesty in  
the region of the heart. As soon as  
what happened, there was a rush to  
seize the assassin, and it was only  
with great difficulty that the proper  
authorities rescued him from the

hands of the mob and effected his  
arrest. Meanwhile, the Royal carriage  
was driven on to the Palace, on  
arrival at which the King was found  
to be still living but sinking so fast  
as practically to be beyond the reach of  
human aid.

The assassin, on being inter-  
rogated at the police office, stated that  
his name was Gaetano Bressi, and  
that he was born at Prato on  
November 11, 1868. He was a silk-  
weaver by occupation, and admitted  
being an Anarchist. He added that he  
came from America, where he had  
resided at Paterson, New Jersey. He  
denied that he had any political  
views, and said he committed the crime  
out of hatred for monarchial institutions.  
Bressi is believed to have  
arrived at Monza on July 27 from  
Milan, where he had been staying for  
a few days previously.

The expression of the late King's  
face as he lies on the bed of death is  
very tranquil, and he appears to be  
gently smiling. The body was  
immediately dressed after death, and  
will be embalmed prior to being taken  
to Rome.

**LATER.**  
It has transpired that when the  
King was wounded he exclaimed: "It  
is nothing." The carriage covered the  
distance between the Gymnastic  
Society's Club-house, outside which  
the crime was committed and the  
Royal Villa at full speed, taking only  
three minutes for the whole journey.  
The King died as he was being  
carried into the Villa. He was taken  
in bed and doctors arrived with  
the utmost speed, but they could only  
declare that life was already  
extinct.

When the Queen, who had been at  
once sent for, arrived at the Villa, she  
hoped that her husband was only  
wounded. The truth was, however, that  
her by the doctors, and a heartbreaking  
scene ensued...

Bressi is young, tall, and of  
swarthy complexion. It appears that  
he remained for four days at Prato  
and two days at Bologna, whence he  
went to Monza. It is confirmed that  
he comes from Paterson, New Jersey,  
where two Anarchist papers are  
published. A second revolver has  
been found under the public stand at  
the gymnastic ground. The assassin  
is strictly guarded in prison. He  
continues to preserve an air of  
absolute indifference and aloofness  
towards his position...

MARRIAGES

**KIMMERLING-WILLIAMS** - On July 26th  
at St. Mary's Hospital, a son,  
Frederick, to Mrs. Margaret  
Kimmerling and Mr. John Williams.

**STUART-SMITH** - On July 26th, at St. Mary's  
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SERVICES

**DATILINE GOLD** - On July 26th  
at St. Mary's Hospital, a son,  
Frederick, to Mrs. Margaret  
Datiline and Mr. John Gold.

**STUART-SMITH** - On July 26th, at St. Mary's  
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# Taking the worry out of the golden years

Enjoying retirement is all about money. Relaxation and time to spend with the family are also important, and good health is essential, but without sufficient money, the golden years can be ruined by worry. Early planning is imperative.

There are nearly 11 million pensioners in Britain and, if one word sticks in their mind, it is "income". The amount of income coming in rules everything, from planning the next holiday to deciding how much to spend at the shop.

To generate income, a person needs capital. Where capital is invested can make a big difference. By the time people retire, they have usually paid off their mortgages, have a pension to draw and hopefully a lump sum to invest to prop up their income.

This is where the problems start. A risky investment can soon turn sour, yet money left sitting in a building society can suffer from the "invisible" cost of inflation. Some pensioners are happy to leave matters in the hands of their accountants, yet many others cannot afford the high pro-

Retirement should be a time of enjoying extra time with the family and relaxing, yet for many it is spoiled by a lack of financial planning, Jon Ashworth reports

essional fees. A good starting point is the charity Age Concern, which publishes a range of inexpensive guides and newsletters on everything from the poll tax to paying the bills.

"Your Taxes & Savings", at £3.50, looks at how to make your money work for you and how to stop as much of it as possible from being swallowed up in taxes. It looks at the tax system, helps pensioners work out their tax allowances and has tips on tax rebates and checking tax coding.

With savings, it is important to never put all your eggs in one basket. Banks and building societies are a good place for money that may be needed in the near future, but for the rest of your money, there is a bewildering range of investments, including National Savings, unit trusts, insurance and shares. Where to begin is the difficult part. So-called "safe" investments such as gilts are popular with the elderly because of their

regular income, but the word of caution remains. Many of the thousands of investors in Barlow Clowes were so reassured by the promise of gilt investment that they placed all their savings with the company. Their incomes soared and it was reassuring to know the money was in a less speculative investment.

So when they lost everything overnight in the company's £150 million collapse, the shock was twice as great. Most of the Barlow Clowes clients eventually got their money back, but the lesson for all elderly investors is never to back one horse, no matter how favourable the odds. Many financial advisers are all too happy to provide "independent" tips on investments, but as with anything involving money, they should be treated with suspicion.

The second guide in the

series, "Your Rights", looks at the social security benefits available to the elderly. Many retired people lose out because they do not know the benefits are there, so the guide, for £1.95, is worth reading. Lady Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern England, says many elderly people can boost their incomes by checking their entitlement to benefits and making sure they are getting all their tax allowances.

Even 'safe' schemes such as gilts should be treated cautiously

old-age. Lady Greengross says: "Our advice is to find out as much as possible before entering into any financial arrangement, to investigate ways of maximising income and to be aware of the possible dangers in small print."

Many elderly home-owners are bombarded with leaflets

that promise to "unlock" the value of their homes and boost monthly income. The thought of an extra hundred pounds or so a month sounds tempting, especially when translated into extra meals or the promise of a weekend treat, but such home-income plans should be treated with caution. Age Concern's "Using Your Home As Capital" guide, by Cecil Hinton, costs £2.95 and should be read by anyone considering a home-income plan.

To round off its series, "Your Home in Retirement", for £2.50, looks at ways of running a home without breaking the budget.

Most bookshops are treasure troves for pensioners seeking advice on what to do with their money. The Consumers' Association publishes a range of "Which?" guides, looking at everything from making a will to tidying up affairs when someone dies. A guide of particular interest, "Approaching Retirement",

for £6.95, provides a helpful list of do's and don'ts.

Allied Dunbar publishes a popular range of money guides that includes tips on managing finances and cutting the cost of inheritance tax.

Then there are the Citizens' Advice Bureaux. Of the more than 900 bureaux throughout the country, about 170 run specialist money advice centres to advise people who fall into debt or have difficulty making ends meet.

The department of social security and banks and building societies are also happy to advise people where they can.

The rule with financial institutions is not to be frightened of them, especially if one is falling behind on the mortgage or struggling with an overdraft. They encourage customers to get in touch.

The crux of it all is to plan well ahead. The arrival of personal pensions has encouraged people in their twenties to start putting money aside for their retirement, and this cannot be a bad thing. For those who are retired, and perhaps living abroad in the sun, it is never too late for good advice.



Many miss out on entitlements: Lady Sally Greengross

A large sector of the travel market is devoted entirely to tailoring holidays to the needs of the over 50s

They have been called Woopies, (Well-Off Older People), but to the holiday industry, well-heeled over 55s are Jollies (Jetsetting Oldies with Lots of Loot). And of the estimated 14.5 million people in the UK aged 55 and over, it is reckoned by at least one leading tour operator that 13 million are reasonably affluent. Some of them have five or six holidays a year.

The specialist market for retired people, trail-blazed by Saga nearly 40 years ago, has been perceived as a growth area by a number of companies who have developed winter sunshine holidays exclusively for Jollies. Thomson has its Young at Heart programme, Intasun Golden Days and Falcon People Like Us, all catering for the older age group off peak.

Saga, which stipulates that one partner of a married couple must be over 60, makes the point that by filling hotels during low season, older people get a warm welcome from hoteliers glad of their custom. The company itself started in this way. Its founder, Sidney de Haan, whose son Roger is chairman of Saga, was a Folkestone hotelier who in 1951 brought down a coach load of pensioners from Yorkshire for an out-of-season holiday at the Rhodesia hotel, which he had bought in 1949. Saga now arranges holidays for a quarter of a million people a year, many of whom travel regularly with Saga.

The company's first foray abroad was to Ostend in 1965, but Saga soon got more adventurous and has been arranging holidays in Romania for a surprising 22 years. A nine-day holiday, Trekking in Nepal, has found favour, even with an 81-year-old (the average age of participants is 69), as has Saga's most exotic holiday, the South American Odyssey. This is a £3,299 "holiday of a lifetime" for 33 nights taking in a cruise up the Amazon, the heart of Patagonia and the ancient civilisation of the Incas, with visits to Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Santiago and Lima. A shorter, 18-night, version of this trip starts in September.

Saga has become well known for

## Heading off on a jolly adventure



Passport to paradise: Roger de Haan with Saga's 1990 brochure

organising long-stay holidays, mainly in Spain, encouraging retired people from all walks of life to winter abroad. They are advised on how to cut down costs at home while they are away, cashing in car tax discs, for example, and are lured by the assurance that being away is likely to cost less or at least no more than shivering the

winter away in the UK. An 84-night stay at Fuengirola, on the Costa del Sol, costs £1,029, with 28 nights and 56 nights available at £394 and £729 respectively.

The Thomson Young at Heart programme, which made its debut in the winter of 1982-83 when it attracted 2,000 holidaymakers, has gone

from strength to strength since its revamp and relaunch in 1986-87. Last season, 55,000 people travelled with them. Thomson has a market share of 40-60 per cent of short-haul winter beach holidays. Since many of these are taken by older people, the company is confident that it is becoming strong in the holiday market for the 55-plus age group.

"We believe that with the Young at Heart programme and the Winter Sun programme combined, it is likely that we are carrying more 55-year-olds than anybody," a spokesperson says.

While Benidorm, with its good facilities, mild climate and flat terrain, remains the most popular destination for the age group, there has been a trend in the past couple of years for older people to choose more up-market holidays. Cyprus and Madeira have found favour as have Crete and Rhodes. Tours are also in demand. Following the success of the Tour of Spain in Andalucia, a tour of central Spain, starting in Benidorm is being introduced. The Viva Espana week's tour costs £390, with an add-on week in Benidorm bringing the cost to £424.

A host of activity holidays has been lined up for Intasun's Golden Days programme for the over 50s, with golf, bowls, bridge, sequence dancing and rambling on offer. Golden Days also includes long-stay super deals. A 91-night holiday in Malta, Glasgow-only departure and return, costs from £489 half board.

Long-stay "super buys" on offer from Falcon in its People Like Us programme for the over 55s include 77 nights in the Algarve at a cost of £437 per head, based on two people sharing a studio apartment. The People Like Us brochure gives a useful account of security measures to protect property before leaving home.

High-street travel agents confirm that getting away for a winter holiday is still a high priority for retired people. Once bitten with the travel bug, there is no holding them back. For people living alone there is the added incentive of companionship—and romances are known to have blossomed.

IRENE FARNSWORTH

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Budget BUP



Property Correspondent, Christopher Warman, reports on an emerging market

# Freedom built in to support

The past decade has seen the emergence of private retirement housing as a significant part of the property market. This is in response to the dwindling provision of public-sector housing and the fact that more people are now willing to move out of their homes.

The reasons for moving vary: the house is too big, too expensive to run and the garden is an increasing burden, or they are growing frail and want the comfort of knowing assistance is at hand when it is needed. They may see the chance to trade down to find a new home with modern facilities and also bank a sizeable sum of money.

One of the leaders at the top end of the retirement market is the English Courtyard Association (ECA). The founder, Noel Shuttleworth, searching for accommodation for his elderly mother, could not find a place that combined a background of security and emergency help with a running cost that could be met from a modest fixed income, and with a reasonable hedge against inflation for limited capital.



Village atmosphere: the Dovecotes, at Sutton Coldfield

So he set up his own company, Geometer Developments, which introduced the concept of the traditional courtyard plan of almshouses, with the tranquil atmosphere of an Oxford college garden. The main requirements, he thought, were for comfortable, spacious accommodation close to shops and other facilities, taking into account the physical difficulties of advancing age and the need to protect fixed incomes and capital against inflation.

Those remain the basics of ECA developments, a concept which has not only worked, but has been copied by other companies coming into this specialised market.

The last few months have seen a dramatic drop in retirement-home sales, falling from about 12,000 in 1988 to about 4,000 this year. This does not indicate a loss of interest, but rather that the retirement market has been

caught up in the property slump. There is a continuing demand, but potential buyers cannot sell their homes and are having to wait until the market picks up so that they can sell at a price that makes the equation of their move add up.

At the same time, the retirement market is changing. Jim Ditheridge, the managing director of Bovis Retirement Homes, says that by 1991 the retired population of England and Wales is expected to exceed 11 million, and he sees greater pressure being put on the private sector. A new category of private retirement housing could emerge, providing full home health-care such as that in the United States, which is generally regarded as leading the way in future trends.

He says that retirement accommodation in the UK tends to cater for two extremes

— the active retired who neither need nor desire much third-party support and want to retain their independence, and the frail and infirm who need full-time care in sheltered housing or nursing homes. "There is likely to be a growing demand to develop a product that combines home ownership with greater provision of on-site care facilities."

Mr Ditheridge emphasises that the retired may be trading down in size, but they are trading up in terms of quality of life. They are buying traditional housing with the added benefit of improved services and better-designed products. "It is not just a different lifestyle, it is a better lifestyle."

The best of the retirement-home schemes combine the right location, within walking distance of shops and not up a steep hill, for example, with

design that is not obtrusive, but that recognises the need to help people as they grow older. There is no point in retiring to a rural area, however delightful, if it leaves the residents isolated, without nearby shops or a doctor, a consideration that applies whether the retirement home is a purpose-built development or simply a home in the country.

Apart from those physical considerations, people who buy retirement homes must look carefully at the maintenance and service charges. In the past, some have found themselves in difficulty when charges have suddenly had a sharp increase. Most of the management is now in the hands of housing associations and specialist management companies that have carefully thought-out schemes to address this matter.

The retirement-home industry last year introduced a code of practice for sheltered housing in an initiative by the House-Builder's Federation and the National House Building Council, and other specialists such as Age Concern. The code requires house-builders to give pre-purchase information about the package of services provided and their cost, and also requires them to enter into a legal agreement with the intended manager of schemes to ensure that, in the long term, purchasers continue to receive the quality and quantity of service that led them to buy in the first place.

The code is voluntary, although underpinned by provisions in the Landlord and Tenant Act and the Consumer Protection Act, but Michael Jack MP, active in promoting safeguards, has said that if the industry does not fully respond to its requirements, legislation may follow. There is a determination to ensure that the industry provides what retired people want, and gives all those who buy into it a happy and carefree retirement.

● The New Homes Marketing Board, an offshoot of the House-Builder's Federation, has a list of retirement schemes by its members.



Using the leisure years to benefit society: retired marketing officer Les Duffin now works with handicapped people

## Working at a different pace

There is plenty of work available to retired people, provided they are prepared to work for nothing. While charities are desperate for experienced help, employment agencies say that employers are moving too slowly towards taking on even those in their 50s.

Keith Gilpin is the development manager of Reach, a registered charity, based in London but covering all of Great Britain, that matches experience and needs in the voluntary sector. He says: "Voluntary organisations need professional and technical help and people who have retired, especially those taking early retirement, have a lot of vigour left in them."

Reach (Retired Executives Action Clearing House) has matched 3,500 jobs and volunteers over the past ten years and is placing people at the rate of \$00 a year. However, Mr Gilpin says: "There are more jobs than people. We have 1,000 jobs all over Britain on our computer, but there is a concentration of jobs in the cities, while retired executives want to escape into the countryside."

Yvonne Pedretti, the manager of Success After Sixty, places older staff in paid low-key office work, such as clerical and bookkeeping. Success After Sixty was set up 15 years ago to help those who

### Many people prefer to continue in some form of employment, usually voluntary

had retired, but wanted to return to less-pressured work.

Unlike Reach, she says: "We always find that there are more people than jobs available. We are getting more interest from employers, but it is a nice steady increase, not a spectacular one."

Mr Gilpin thinks there is a much more positive attitude among the retired. He says: "Many now regard retirement as just another stage in their lives and they want to get something out of it. People are retiring younger with the expectation of living longer and healthier lives. They are less financially strapped because they have occupational pensions and many inherit a house when they already have one."

Mr Gilpin says: "Five per cent of retirees are potential Reach volunteers. We are only scratching the surface. If more people learned about the opportunities in the voluntary

sector, more would come forward."

Those missing the net include women, who constitute only one in seven of volunteers, and teachers. Mr Gilpin says: "Women tend to undervalue their expertise. We have placed a number of teachers in voluntary organisations, but most teachers do not see themselves as executives."

Some placements are still in the same slot after eight or nine years. Others prefer to move around. For example, a computer expert on Reach's books goes into a charity, gets the system up and running and hands it over. He is on his ninth assignment.

Many retired people learn new skills. Les Duffin had 40 years' experience in sales and marketing, but his first retirement job was fund-raising for a charity that employed mentally handicapped young people on a homestead at Gorsley, near Ross-on-Wye.

He says: "I had no experience in fund-raising or the mentally handicapped, but I was so impressed by the charity's philosophy of helping the young adults to lead a fairly independent and fulfilled life that I wanted to help."

He is now an instructor at the homestead two days a week and works one other day in publicity and fund-raising.

Work has been a lifeline for Joe Brown, who works in the office at Whitewoods, a removals company in Eltham, south-east London. A former milkman, he took a couple of falls and was forced to retire when he was struck by cancer.

Whitewoods wanted someone to be in the office during the dinner hour and Mr Brown felt he could answer the telephone and take messages, even though he could not do any heavy work.

Now, instead of having to go to hospital every day, he goes for a routine check-up once a year. He says: "Eight years ago I was practically on walking sticks. I would have been chairbound by now."

RODNEY HOBSON

## When reality does not fit the dream

Many people seek a last fling before old age truly sets in. Then, after a few golden years, it is time to pull up sticks and return home. That seems to be the reality that follows the dream of Britons retiring abroad, usually to a place in the sun.

Even those who sell up with the intention of never coming back to the UK often have a change of heart when they are no longer fit and active. The laid-back lifestyle of sunny climates, with its constant round of parties, begins to pall when health problems set in.

The main reasons for people choosing to live abroad are climate, cost of living or to be near family. In places such as the Costa del Sol and the Algarve, activities like golf are a big attraction. While both locations offer an enviable lifestyle, people with holiday time-shares in the areas say they have noticed that as people get older they usually

### Retiring abroad is a popular option, but can backfire if health problems emerge

want to return to the UK. Problems often begin when people are widowed and feel isolated. At this point, many people's thoughts turn to home, especially if this means being nearer family and friends. Money is another factor. Many fail to take into account the diminishing value of pensions in countries with high inflation.

This pattern of retiring abroad and then retiring back to the UK is particularly noticeable in European sun spots, where some retired couples prefer to live as expatriates in English communities with English newspapers and magazines and do not or will not speak the language.

Traditionally, British nationals retire to Australia and Canada and other English-

speaking countries. British state pensions were paid to 133,155 retired or widowed beneficiaries living in Australia in December 1989, more than double the 1979 figure. Some of these, however, may be pensioners taking long holidays in the Antipodes and choosing to have their pensions sent out to them.

Last year, 2,000 residents' visas were approved for British people going to join their children in Australia. To be eligible, a parent has to have the majority of his or her children living in the country. A further 30 "self-starting retirees", who could prove that they would not be a financial drain on the Australian government, were granted four-year entry.

Canada, the Irish Republic, the United States, New Zealand and South Africa follow Australia in the department of social security's figures of pensions paid abroad. Spain and Portugal are still popular and there is a growing demand for property in France.

The Prudential, the biggest provider of pensions in the UK, has also found that as people get older and start having health problems they come back to this country.

The Prudential does pay pensions into banks overseas, but as far as it can calculate, less than 1 per cent of its pensions portfolio involves pensions paid abroad. This may be because some expatriate pensioners have kept British bank accounts. The identified percentage does, however, represent a gradual increase and is attributed to people buying residential properties in Spain and Greece.

Roy Elms, retirement counselling manager for Prudential Corporate Pensions, which runs pre-retirement seminars for companies, says that people are retiring younger and at a variety of different ages. Increasingly, they are likely to already have, or be able to afford, a second property and are contemplating settling abroad.

He says: "We warn them that any change needs to be thoroughly investigated. It is one thing enjoying a holiday somewhere and quite another going there to live. We urge them to spend time in all the seasons of the year in the place they are planning to live."

Knight, Frank and Rutley, the estate agent, is opening its first overseas office specifically for home sales in San Pedro, on Spain's Costa del Sol. Hampsons International is marketing new projects in Madeira and Italy. Reids Hotel in Madeira is a favourite place for wintering abroad and now the Reids Garden Project, which is targeted at retired couples, gives the chance of having a home there. Restoration projects in Umbria and Tuscany feature the conversion of two large houses into apartments and the development of swimming pools and tennis courts.

The advantage of this type of project is that there will be a resident management team all-year-round to call on in an emergency. When hit by a crisis after retiring abroad, people often do not know where to turn.

However, the Abbeyfield Society, a housing charity for the elderly, finds that it is getting an increasing number of calls from pensioners living abroad, especially in South Africa, asking about the availability of accommodation in Abbeyfield houses in the UK. The end of a dream, perhaps?

IRENE FARNSWORTH

### PENSIONERS LIVING ABROAD

UK retirement pension and widow beneficiaries overseas			
Top ten countries	December 1979	December 1989	
Australia	66,508	133,155	
Canada	27,430	95,228	
Irish Republic	29,620	57,431	
United States	19,999	53,835	
New Zealand	18,435	30,018	
South Africa	9,598	29,784	
Spain	6,828	21,237	
Jamaica	3,716	14,396	
West Germany	5,145	14,330	
Italy	4,042	12,695	
Total worldwide	224,719	547,727	

Source: Department of Social Security

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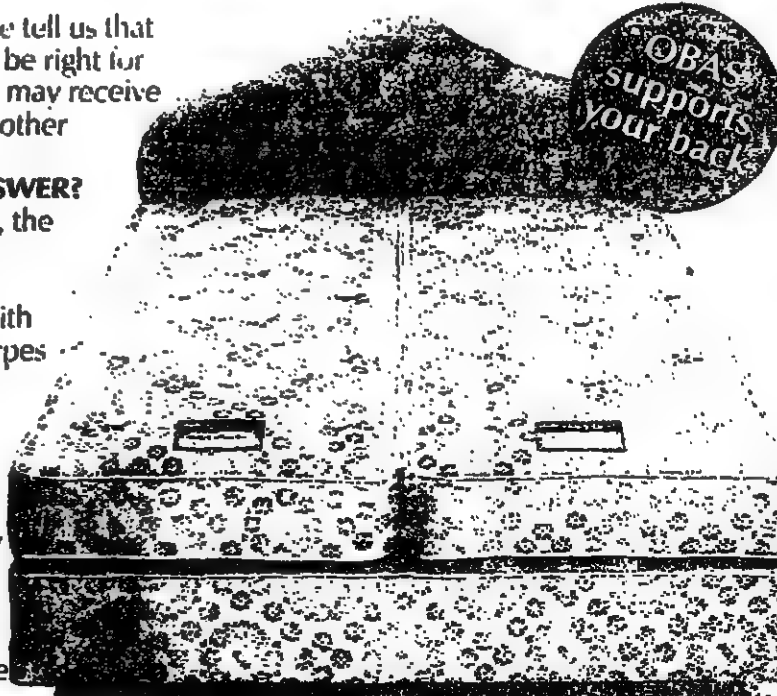
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# Fishing around for life's answers

Last month, Dr Trevor Jowett, a developmental geneticist at the University of Newcastle, walked into the toy department of a crowded Tyneside supermarket and bought 1,000 glass marbles which he needed for a research programme he hopes will help solve some of the great mysteries of embryogenesis.

Dr Jowett needed the marbles because the university's department of biochemistry and genetics had just received a grant for a three-year project studying the cloning and characterisation of genes involved in the early development of the zebra fish.

"I got some funny looks in the supermarket, I can tell you," he says. "But our research depends on a plentiful supply of zebra fish embryos, and the problem with the adults is that they eat their own eggs. We put marbles on trays at the bottom of their tanks so that the fertilised eggs, which are heavy, fall in among the marbles, and so cannot be reached."

The announcement of the study of zebra fish, which originate in the tributaries of the River Ganges, comes at a time of extraordinary excitement for geneticists around the world. As researchers race to decode the genetic mechanisms behind animal development, they

Scientists are using marbles to outwit fish.

Nigel Burnham

explains how the

trick may help

to reveal the

mechanics of genetics

have discovered a common blueprint that unites insects and vertebrates. The scientists believe they are on the verge of a discovery.

Dr Jowett, the director of the research programme, is particularly interested in the control of early development. "Understanding early development is one of the most intriguing questions in biology at the present time," he says. "It is all very well to know how DNA is constructed and what it consists of, but we are asking how the information is encoded in the DNA and how the genes that carry the information are expressed."

"There are, for instance, genes that are switched on in some tissues where they are required and switched off in others where they

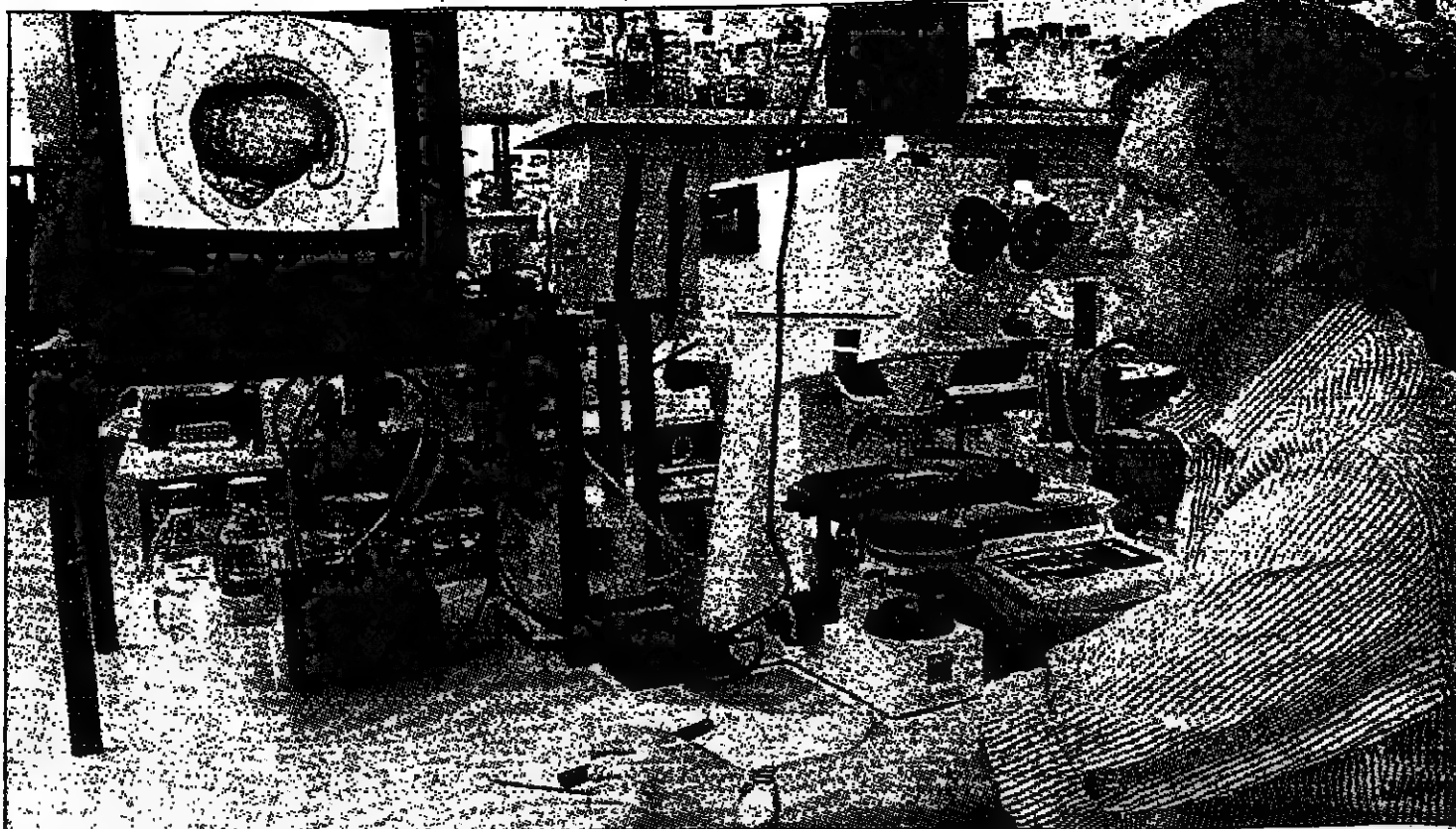
are not required. How that regulation is brought about is a fundamental question."

The homeotic genes are the enormously influential genes at the core of modern embryology. They ensure that all the different regions of the body develop the correct structure by manufacturing products that can adhere to other genes and switch them on or off. They leave their chemical ciphers in different areas of the embryo, thus defining the various segments of the body.

Dr Jowett says: "Homeotic genes were identified when they were mutated because they caused structures to develop in the wrong part of the animal. For instance, a leg developing out of the head, instead of an antenna. By discovering mutations that disrupt the genes and therefore produce an abnormal effect, we can pinpoint genes which are involved in certain roles."

A decade ago, few biologists suspected that the embryo of the drosophila fruit fly had much in common with those of vertebrates. But researchers have since found that most of drosophila's homeotic genes are present in vertebrates such as mice, zebra fish and humans.

Geneticists also now know that the order of genes in fruit flies and



Close encounter: Dr Jowett studies a zebra fish egg using a special microscope that allows him to watch the cells divide on a TV screen

mice is identical and that there are similarities in the molecular mechanisms of development in the way genes are arranged in sequence on the chromosome.

Fresh discoveries about the early development of insects and vertebrates are being made at breakneck pace and, because of the common blueprint, each one tends to be applicable to the studies of the development of all organisms. Solutions to many of the embryological mysteries remain appear

to be in sight. But geneticists differ over which research routes to take.

Although many researchers still believe drosophila is the organism that will win the race to establish models that can then be applied to other organisms, Dr Jowett thinks the time is now right to diversify embryological research among the vertebrates. "It is all very well to work on drosophila," he explains, "but we need to look at an animal system more closely related to ourselves, to which we can apply

the same sort of technology which has been applied to drosophila."

"Among the vertebrates, the zebra fish is a particularly good organism to study, partly because the zebra fish's eggs are completely transparent so, by using a special illumination device, a microscope, we can see what is going on and actually watch the cells divide."

Dr Jowett will be watching another team of geneticists' researching neurogenesis, the formation of the nervous system, in the

zebra fish at the University of Oregon in the United States. His own research programme will concentrate on two genes that geneticists know are expressed in the mouse in the developing nervous system. In particular regions of the hindbrain.

He adds: "Our primary aim now is to identify the fish's genes. We know that these genes are there but we now have to clone and purify them and then look at their genetic arrangements."

If trials by dentists are successful, electronic pain relief controlled by the patient could have uses in other areas.

Pain attacks every part of the body, but the Scottish poet Robert Burns identified one of the nastier pains afflicting the human race when he described toothache as the "hell of all diseases".

Recently, dental patients have been sitting comfortably, fully relaxed, while they undergo deep cavity drillings and fillings, with no drug to numb the nerves.

Instead they have a small box in their lap about the size of a portable radio. Inside the patient's mouth is a small, wafer-thin "field receptor", which acts as a receiving aerial for pain-killing signals.

'Many patients fear the local anaesthetic'

As the dentist's drill winds up to peak revolutions, the patient can increase a simple "volume" control, and the electronic anaesthetic, already in effect, becomes even deeper.

When the treatment is finished there is no "frozen" jaw, no warning from the dentist to take care with hot drinks or to avoid biting your tongue. The numbing, tingling sensation brought on by transmissions from the equipment disappears in seconds, and there are no undesirable after-effects.

Electronic targeted anaesthesia (ETA) is the brainchild of Dr Tony Matthews, a senior consultant at Salford University Business Services near Manchester.

## Dental shock treatment



Dial your own relief: Stephen Gorski works on his son Andrew's teeth, while Andrew controls the amount of numbness

After four years of research and development, Dr Matthews, who is a consultant in medical instrumentation with a master's degree in medical electronics, has produced a unit designed for the dental market at a cost of about

£2,000. Dr Matthews, who is reluctant to make dramatic claims for his development of ETA, acknowledges that others are working in the field. But he believes that the methods and equipment he has devised are unique, and that

they work effectively. The machine, and the theory which led to its use for drug-free anaesthesia, are being closely studied by Professor Geoffrey Barker, head of the department of Oral Surgery, Medicine and Pathology at

Cardiff dental school. Professor Barker says: "The potential is enormous. Many patients fear the 'pin-prick' and pain of the local anaesthetic solution as it enters the tissues," he says. "The mechanical displacement of

the tissues and the need to position the needle near the nerve make dental injections difficult for the normal, apprehensive patient."

"This new equipment requires only one receptor and thus offers easy access to the dental surgeon an advantage with young and old patients who have limited jaw and neck movements."

"Some of the other methods require several electrodes and may possibly produce unwanted motor side-effects, such as eye movements."

One of the dentists who use the new equipment practises in a town near Manchester. Over a period of three weeks,

'ETA could cut the numbers who do not visit dentists'

Stephen Gorski has used it on several patients.

"This is an excellent piece of equipment," he says, "and it could help to reduce the numbers, about 50 per cent, of the public who do not visit dentists for one reason or another."

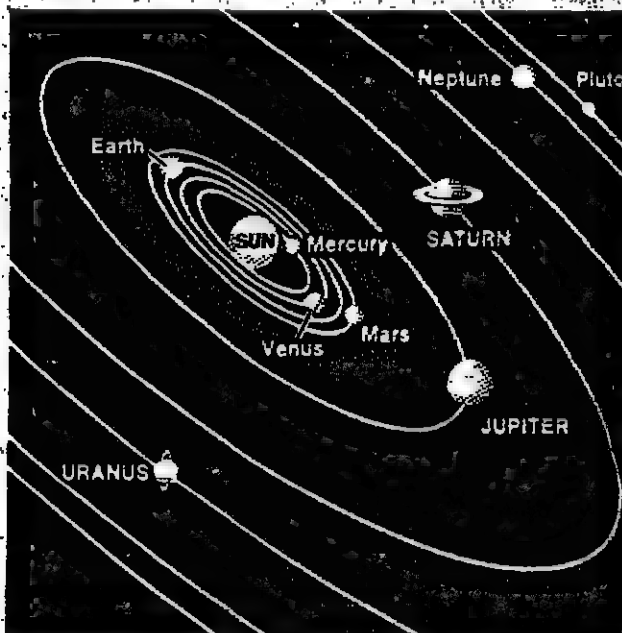
"So far I have used it only for fillings and not for any extractions, but this is because I am still building up confidence in what is an entirely new technique."

Dr Matthews believes the basic technique behind the invention has wide applications in fields other than dentistry. Studies are being carried out in other areas, including childbirth.

WILLIAM HUNTER

## Extraterrestrial picnic for bugs

The nutrient that fed Earth's first life forms may exist on other planets



What do the planets Jupiter, Uranus and Saturn have in common? The answer, according to a group of researchers, is that their planetary atmospheres all possess the vital ingredients for making a primitive nutrient capable of sustaining certain types of bacteria.

The nutrient, known as tholin, can be made simply by sparking a mixture of methane and ammonia, two gases that were present in the Earth's atmosphere when life evolved.

It can also be made by "energising" mixtures of gases similar to those in the atmospheres of the solar system's outer planets.

Because it is rich in carbon, scientists have long mused over the possibility that tholin millions of years ago provided the first meal for early life forms evolving on Earth.

Now, researchers led by the prominent American cosmologist Carl Sagan, who is based at Cornell University in New York, have rendered this idea a little less tenuous with the discovery of modern-day bacteria from garden soil that are able to live off tholin. If tholin satisfies the palates of Earth-bound bugs, they argue, it could do the same on other planets.

Reporting their discovery in the journal *Icarus*, the researchers say that the widespread presence of tholin should be taken into account when "evaluating the potential for contaminating the solar system with spacecraft probes".

They advise caution in unmanned space exploration, advocating an "environmental impact" study of possible niches in the solar system where tholin-eating bugs from Earth could thrive.

With tholin as food, and unsterilised space probes as transport, it seems that Earth bugs could well end up boldly going where no bugs have gone before.

One moon that could offer

bugs a tholin-rich home is Saturn's Titan. Though not quite the same as Earth tholin, Titan tholin has been produced in a laboratory by sparking gases similar to those present in the moon's atmosphere.

The substance has properties similar to those of Titan chemicals observed at a distance by the probe Voyager. In 1984, Dr Sagan calculated that the surface of Titan could in fact be awash with tholin that has accumulated to depths of hundreds of metres over millions of years.

Yet despite a plentiful supply of nutrients, Titan is far from a bug's paradise. The main snag is its temperature, a chilling minus 178°C, which is too cold for bacterial growth. All may not be lost, however, because when the Sun enters its red giant phase and the Earth starts to cook, Titan will warm up to the present temperature of Earth.

At that time, Dr Sagan and his colleagues note, any bugs previously planned on Titan, either by accident or design, might have some chance of evolving into new life forms.

Although a less desirable abode than Titan, another resting place for space-travelling bugs would be the giant planet of Jupiter. The main drawback with Jupiter would be a scarcity of surface water, which would confine bugs to a precarious existence on tiny droplets in the planet's ever-shifting water clouds.

There is no consensus over whether bacteria could live in such a way, but Dr Sagan and his fellow researchers think that a single droplet would be unable to hold enough tholin to sustain bacterial growth.

Possible niches for bugs are also to be found on the icy satellites of Saturn and Uranus. Comets and asteroids are ruled out, the researchers say, because of a lack of water.

DAVID CONCAR

© Nature Times News Service, 1990

## New this week: Sun's "IPC"

At £7,995, Sun's new IPC workstation features: 207Mb disk, 8Mb RAM, 15.8 MIPS SPARC chip and 1152x900 colour display. It runs UNIX with no compromise for DOS users. But that's only half the story.

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GEORGE COLE

## Race for copy-killer hots up as DAT and dual video loom

For almost 25 years, the music industry has chased the idea of a spoiling device that makes it impossible to tape records. Music and now video software companies are still searching for technology that will prevent the copying of discs and tapes.

The quest has been given more urgency because of the possibility that digital audio tape (DAT), able to make virtually perfect copies of compact discs, may become a household item, and because of the move towards dual video cassette recorders such as the £400 "double decker" announced by Amstrad earlier this month, that will let home users copy videos.

Digital audio tape has faced fierce lobbying from a music industry that fears a slump in the sales of compact discs if customers can make their own copies from borrowed discs.

This month a group of American music publishers filed a lawsuit against Sony, claiming that its intention to sell DAT machines will contribute to copyright infringement. Last year, a compromise over DAT was reached between the record industry and the manufacturers, whereby re-cording machines will be made with a serial copy management system that lets consumers make copies of compact discs but prevents copies of that tape being made.

According to the record company's trade body, the International Federation of Phonogram Producers (IFPI), home taping costs European music companies about £10 million a year.

The UK's record trade association, the British Phonographic Industry (BPI), claims

Home taping costs European music companies about £10 million a year

that consumers spend several millions pounds a year on pirated music tapes.

Initially, record companies claimed DAT would flood the market with high-quality pirated cassettes. The companies demanded that manufacturers build an anti-copy system into the format.

CBS developed the Copycode system and tried to get it accepted as the industry standard. Copycode worked by doctoring the CD sound signal with a series of notches. According to CBS, the notches would not affect normal listening, but DAT recorders featuring Copycode circuitry would recognise the notches and refuse to record.

Audio enthusiasts complained that the system spoils the music. The American National Bureau of Standards (NBS) tested Copycode and concluded the buffs were right. That killed it off.

At one time, many record companies hoped that a system that placed an inaudible high-frequency signal on to a disc could be used to prevent copying of vinyl LPs and audio cassettes. The companies claimed the signal would not affect normal listening. In practice, the spoiler did not work outside the laboratory and the music industry abandoned plans for similar systems.

Video companies are also trying to prevent copying, using a system called Macrovision, which prevents the copying of pre-recorded video tapes. Its

developers claim that unauthorised video copying results in worldwide losses of £500 million.

Macrovision works by adding a string of electronic pulses to a video recording. Users can play the tape normally, but if they try to copy it, the pulses confuse the VCR and ruin the recording.

JVC, inventor of the VHS video system, issued a circular to all VCR manufacturers which recommended that they adjusted their deck's circuitry so that it was sensitive to Macrovision.

Today, many leading video software companies use the system, although some save the process only for their best-selling titles. It is also being used for corporate and training videos.

Alistair Knox, head of the UK division of Macrovision, says: "Some training films cost hundreds of pounds. Quite often, too, tapes are hired for several days and copied, then returned."

One company, Eidek, of Massachusetts, has also developed Copyguard, an anti-copy system for American cable television broadcasts that may see wider use. The video trade says it welcomes Copyguard. It works by adding or subtracting 16 lines to each picture frame. Television sets can cope with the line differences, but VCRs produce poor recordings.

Macrovision is now planning a European launch of its video encryption system (VES), which records scrambled sound and pictures on videotape. VES is being used by several television stations in the United States as a safe way of sending master tapes around studios.

The perfect introduction to geography

# THE TIMES ATLAS OF THE WORLD

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Things are getting tougher for car hackers who soup up vehicles by changing the computer program that controls many modern car engines.

As an industry of small firms has grown up offering to improve the performance of certain cars by altering the electronics of the computer, motor manufacturers are busy re-designing engine control systems with chips that are far more difficult to tamper with.

At present, those cars with engine management computers have a micro-processor chip that does the calculating, and a memory chip that stores long tables of figures, giving the optimum engine settings for every possible combination of throttle setting, engine temperature, engine speed, exhaust gases and other parameters.

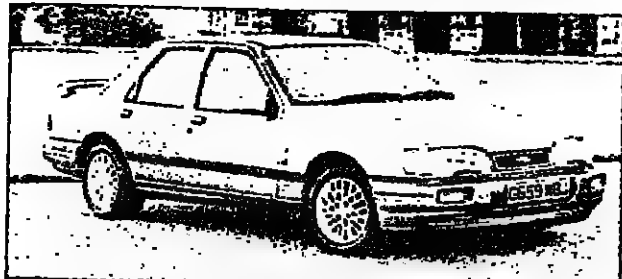
These tables are known as maps, and are drawn to provide the best combination of power, economy and emissions control.

Soon after computerised engines were introduced, specialist firms that tune cars for extra high performance started to alter the maps to provide more power, often at the expense of economy and emissions control.

Life was made easy for them by the motor manufacturers, which used easily reprogrammed chips, called eeproms, to store the maps. Businesses sprang up claiming to offer super-car performance simply by swapping the original chip

## Slowing down the whiz kids

**Hackers who soup up fast cars by changing the engine's computer chips are on the way out, says Chris Partridge**



Ford Sierra: Will a new computer stop car hackers?

for one with higher power settings. It is not illegal to alter or change the chips, so long as the car engines do not break exhaust-pollution laws.

Car hackers, by increasing acceleration and top speed, get the most spectacular results out of turbo cars, says Peter Wales, the founder and managing director of Detection Techniques, of Buckingham. He says: "The 204 horsepower Ford Sierra Sapphire Turbo can be boosted to 330 horsepower simply by changing the chip and a few simple mechanical modifications."

Mr Wales adds that the company has souped up about 12,000 Sierras and Escorts by

changing the chips. The conversion costs about £600. Turbo cars, which have the air blown in by turbo compressor, are particularly easy to modify because by simply raising the maximum air pressure, more fuel/air mixture is injected into the engine, which then generates more power.

Naturally aspirated cars can also have a mid-range performance improved by a cocktail of adjustments to the fuel ratios, Mr Wales says.

Designing chip modifications has been so successful that some companies claim they are themselves the victims of computer crime.

"We lose a lot of software

through piracy," says Ken Brittan, whose company, Brodie Brittan Racing, has modified most current engine computers for extra power, as the software modifications are so complex that many firms do not bother to write their own.

However, the manufacturers are beginning to hit back by putting the whole engine management system on one chip, making it very difficult to intercept the signals going from the processor to the memory, information needed if the hacker is to work out what is going on.

The new modules cannot easily be reprogrammed, either. Instead of using erasable

programmable memory, storing only the maps needed by one model, the new units store every conceivable program, the car choosing which ones are appropriate for it.

Ford, for example, has just introduced an engine management computer called the EEC-IV, a sealed module that is being fitted to every Ford

model, worldwide, including the new Fiesta Turbo.

The main motive for doing this is to make huge economies of scale, but it has also had the effect of making things much more difficult for the hackers.

Ford has always had an aggressive attitude to hackers, making it clear that any

alteration of the engine-control computer will invalidate any guarantee.

Mr Wales is not worried. "The EEC-IV is designed to stop us modifying it, but that just means we will have to put a lot of work into finding out how to modify it," he says.

The next generations of cars will offer new challenges to

computer buffs. They will have computers controlling not just the engine, but the transmission, suspension, the brakes and even the steering.

Mr Brittan has been taking a look at the latest Corvette Stingray, an American sports car. "Everything is on the same chip," he says. "The engine chip controls exactly when the automatic gearbox shifts, even the way the torque converter operates. The Americans are definitely light years ahead of us in computer control."

If ways of hacking into the computers of the future can be found, hackers will be able to stiffen suspensions, tweak steering responses and change gear-shift timings.

They might be able to get cars to rise at the nose when braking instead of going nose-down, or lean into turns like a motorbike instead of rolling out.

However, such modifications could, without the huge test resources of the leading motor manufacturers, be highly dangerous for small companies to do. Mr Wales and Mr Brittan believe that the days of the car computer hacker are numbered, and both are going into more mainstream areas.

Mr Wales adds: "People should not be tampering with the more advanced systems now coming along because they do not really know what they are doing."

## Venus goes on the map

THE Magellan space probe is expected to go into orbit around Venus on August 10 and start mapping the surface of the planet in September. Scientists will search for evidence of lightning and ancient oceans, try to locate dried stream beds and volcanoes and search for changes in the planet's atmosphere. Twenty United States and Soviet spacecraft have already visited Venus, although little is known about its surface because these missions carried low-resolution radars and the planet's dense cloud cover shielded it from earth-based telescopes. The probe is proving a success for the US space programme, which has been plagued lately by bad news in recent months, including a misshapen mirror that has crippled the Hubble Space Telescope and problems with fuel leaks that have grounded the space shuttle fleet.

### Fish-finder

A SONAR device developed for fishermen promises to help track down elusive fish. Users turn a control knob to select the type of fish wanted and indicate whether the fishing is in a lake, river or saltwater. The device, programmed with information on the selected species, sounds an alarm if it appears. Idaho-based Bottom Line, the manufacturer, says it has checked more than 1,000 professional anglers and guides to compile the software information. For those who think they know more than the experts, the device has an override function. Split-view screens show the location of fish underwater at a distance or with a zoom mechanism. Species Select will go on sale in the United States in November, costing between £160 and £400.

### French aid

THE FRENCH government is to give more than £300 million of state aid to Thomson, an electronics company, to help finance research and development into high defi-

### BRIEFING

nition television (HDTV), which promises cinema-quality pictures in the home. The five-year aid is being granted under an agreement that commits Thomson to a specific research programme with time-tables for developing and launching products. The French company has signed an agreement with Philips under which the two are to invest £2 billion.

### Lean Mac

AFTER eight years of study, McDonald's has decided to cook its chips in the US in vegetable oil, ditching the beef tallow at present used. The change means 45 per cent less saturated fat per serving, according to Ed Rensi president of McDonald's in the US. A similar change is expected in Britain by the end of the year. The move to vegetable oil was welcomed by Phil Sokolof, head of the US National Heart Savers Association, which has previously taken full-page advertisements in American newspapers criticising McDonald's fat content.

### Silicon Oz

THREE huge high-tech projects under consideration in Australia are intended to be funded largely by private investment. If the schemes get the go-ahead, they will result in a commercial spaceport, which may launch US-made satellites from Soviet rockets, and a "multi-function polis", intended as a high-tech centre similar to California's Silicon Valley and a VFT, or very fast train, which could cover the 650 miles between Sydney and Melbourne in three hours.

### PC-plus

THE IDEA that the personal computer market is close to saturation is not borne out by the findings of Dataquest, a market-research firm, which predicts that last year's sales of nearly 6.5 million PCs in Europe will exceed 12 million by 1994. Six out of ten PCs sold in Europe are actually made there.

MATTHEW MAY

## Syringe breakthrough

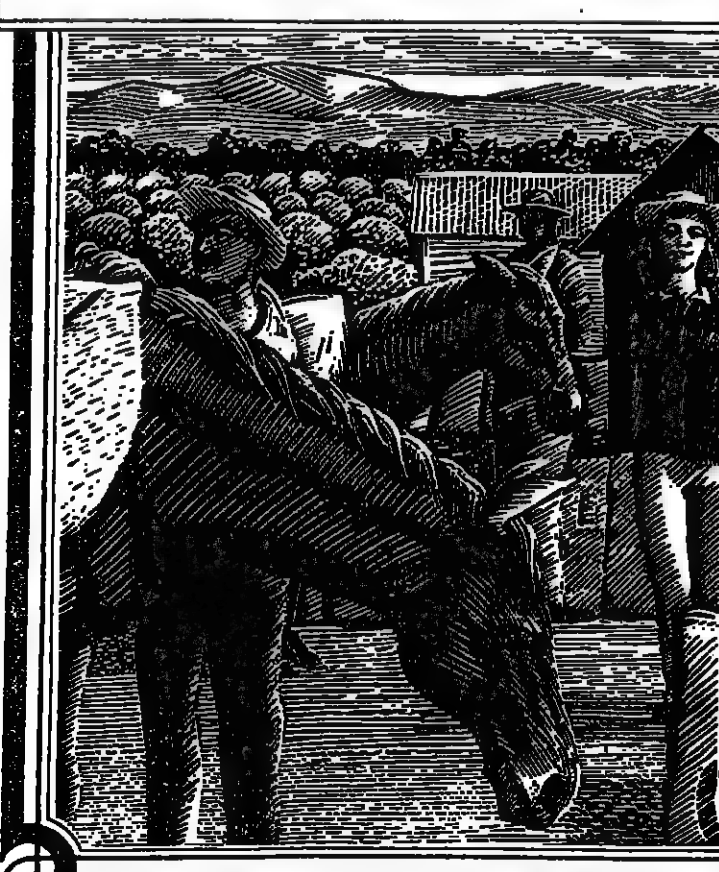


The single-use syringe and its businessman inventor WILLIAM BATES'S single-use disposable syringe places him as one of 21 regional finalists in the Year of the Invention competition. His modification to the disposable syringe, says the Design Council, the event's organiser, could prevent drug-users and people in the Third World re-using disposable needles, a factor in the spread of the Aids and Hepatitis B viruses. The syringe uses a thermoplastic rubber piston, part of which breaks off when withdrawn after use, making it un-

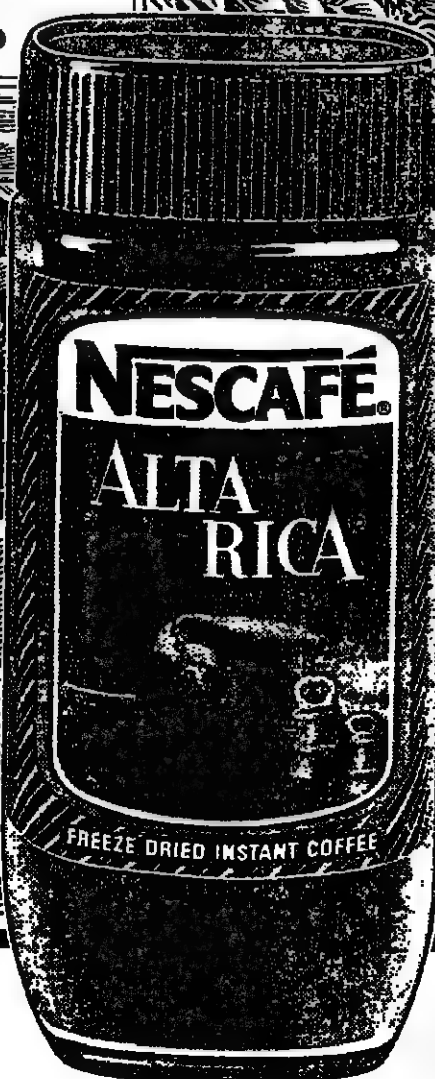
usable. "There are no big production costs," says Mr Bates, a Northamptonshire businessman. The invention is one of more than 4,000 entries in the competition, which is sponsored by Toshiba. Other finalists include Dr Michael Wilson and Dr Philip Monro, who have developed a system to deal with the third-world problem of solutions for oral rehydration sometimes being prepared with infected water. The national winners will be announced in February.



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# Brimming with confidence



Liz Smith discovers how Patricia Underwood (above) creates the most desirable, and durable, hats

If, by chance, my new hat gets sat upon, there is no need to fret. Made out of fine paglia straw with a squashy brim that can dip or swoon, be pulled down or curled back, it is so far removed from the structured confections usually found in smart millinery departments that its rather haphazard appearance might not seem to justify its not inconsiderable price. Until you put it on, that is.

The designer Patricia Underwood, an Englishwoman based in New York, has for 14 years been making gracefully amorphous shapes in straw hats that can be rolled up and packed flat. I have long admired them when worn by friends formally at a wedding or, more informally, dashing about in the day. Several weeks before I bought my hat (in the Harvey Nichols sale, reduced to £132 from £199), I had breakfast with Ms Underwood on one of her regular visits to London. She was wearing a hat, a deep-crowned boater in natural Milan straw (coarser and firmer than the paglia) trimmed with black ribbon. She looked cool, chic and relaxed as she explained the appeal of wearing a hat on an everyday basis.

"A woman can really make a statement with her hat. There are practical reasons, of course, such as protection from the sun, but a hat also draws attention to the features. It is glamorous, but it takes confidence to carry off."

Formerly a typist at Buckingham Palace, Ms Underwood has been making hats since 1972. Living in New York, she married an American whom she met in Paris in 1967, and took a night course in millinery at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) on Seventh Avenue. "I had made myself a dress, and having decided to make a hat out of the left over fabric I thought it would be



Top hat: a typically glamorous, wide-brimmed classic from Patricia Underwood — but, she says, "it takes confidence to carry it off"

interesting to learn more about millinery." Her next step towards becoming a hat designer was less orthodox.

"A hairdresser in the East Village offered me \$152 to have my shoulder-length hair shorn into a crew cut for a story for a German magazine," she says. "My husband was in the country where we were building a house. When he came to meet me off the train he didn't even recognise me." She spent the rest of that winter wearing a hat.

Six months later the same photographer offered her \$500 to be shaved bald. "I was pregnant by then and thought the combination of being out of shape and looking ridiculous was too much," she said. No. A money order arrived for \$500 anyway, "for luck", the

capital she needed to set herself up in the millinery business with a friend. When her partner returned to Denmark in 1976 Ms Underwood took over the business and started selling under her own name.

Her unstructured and understated styles were immediately picked up by magazines and began selling to top stores across the country. In 1982 she won a Coty Award, one of the American fashion industry's top honours, and in 1983 she received the CFDA (Council of Fashion Designers of America) award. Many of her hats remain classics, best sellers season after season. Her wide brims are sufficed at the edges with horsehair, her favourite malleable straws are repeated in strips of leather for winter, turned

into a cloche or a "slouch". Her flat-topped boaters, sou'westers and knotted headbands are other favourites.

My own new hat, with a medium-sized brim in squashy paglia that is her signature straw, is called a T. S. Eliot. New York designers, Bill Blass, Isaac Mizrahi, Oscar de la Renta, and Mary McFadden use her hats each season. One hat created for a Perry Ellis collection three years ago had a brim so large it had to be despatched around America by Greyhound bus. Although she is now married to an Englishman, Jonathan Moynihan, a banking consultant, Ms Underwood remains based in New York.

To cope with the increased sales in a business that already has a turnover above \$1 million

(£625,000), she moves next month to larger studios in Manhattan where her team of 12 will sit and stitch her hats by hand, pulling the fine straw off spindles to build up row after row of different shaped brims which can incorporate crisp stripes of colour or shadowy bands that merge colour subtly.

"Making a hat is labour intensive," she says, explaining the price, which starts at around £150. In her new winter collection, felt hats start at £199 and go up to £250 to £295 for leather hats.

Patricia Underwood hats sell at Browns, who were the first to introduce them to London, Harrods and Harvey Nichols. In September she will return to celebrate the opening of a Patricia Underwood department on Harvey Nichols's ground floor.

## Glasgow stretches to fit the Bolshoi

An army of technicians is racing to re-create the atmosphere of Moscow's great opera company in time for its debut on Friday

Later this week the Bolshoi Opera, the largest company of its kind in the world, is mounting two massive productions in Glasgow on its first visit to the United Kingdom.

The project is costing Glasgow city council £1.5 million, and is the culmination of two years of negotiations between the Bolshoi and Robert Palmer, the director of the Glasgow 1990 festival.

A 500-strong Soviet contingent — the combined opera, ballet and orchestra of the Bolshoi and an army of technicians — is travelling to Scotland to perform two of the company's finest productions, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mlada*, and The Maid of Orleans by Tchaikovsky. Neither has been seen before outside Moscow.

Bolshoi means big. No theatre in Glasgow was large enough to stage the productions, which are lavish in scale and spectacle. At a cost of half a million pounds the huge Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) is being transformed into as near a reproduction as possible of the Bolshoi theatre's stage and auditorium. The aim is to use the same scenery, lighting, props and costumes, so that the company feels at home, and audiences get a realistic impression of a Moscow performance.

To achieve this, Britain's largest stage is being constructed, measuring 1,500 square metres, or half the size of Hampden Park football pitch, with an auditorium seating 5,000. The productions will also require 50 tons of lighting and scenery, 600 costumes, 300 lights, and the most sophisticated sound system available in the UK.

An advance guard, led by the Bolshoi Opera's chief designer, Valeri Levental, is already in Glasgow. The company arrives by chartered jet tomorrow, and the *Mlada* opening night is on Friday.

Mr Levental came to Glasgow in January for three days of discussions, and to inspect the SECC. "My first reaction was that it was not possible to re-create the unique atmosphere of the Bolshoi," he says. "But technical problems are part of my life. I took my drawings back to my kitchen in Moscow."

Months of fax and telex messages passed between Glasgow and Moscow about the technical difficulties. The man chosen to execute Mr Levental's designs, Irishman Gar Holohan, became involved in the enterprise in February, when he was asked to do a feasibility study. He had a wealth of experience to bring to the job; a Dublin architect, he specialises in constructing huge venues for the

likes of Pavarotti, Elton John and Neil Diamond.

With the opening night only days away, 240 riggers, engineers and sound and lighting technicians have been working in six-hour shifts to achieve the transformation. "What we're doing," says Mr Holohan, "is virtually creating an opera house in a space rather like a vast aircraft hangar. The challenge here is the flying system, basically a 70ft high steel tower on each side of the stage, with a 90ft steel bridge across it, rigged with a sophisticated system of pulleys and cables. Drapes and backcloths are tied on to it and can be easily moved up and down."

Mr Holohan had already dealt with one minor and one major difficulty that afternoon. The people who delivered four fork-lift trucks left with the keys, causing a two-hour delay, and the lighting track had to be redesigned to take an extra ton of special effects. The Russians wanted. Mr Holohan arranged for David Hannay, a specialist engineer, to fly in from Manchester to design the new track overnight, ready for construction next day.

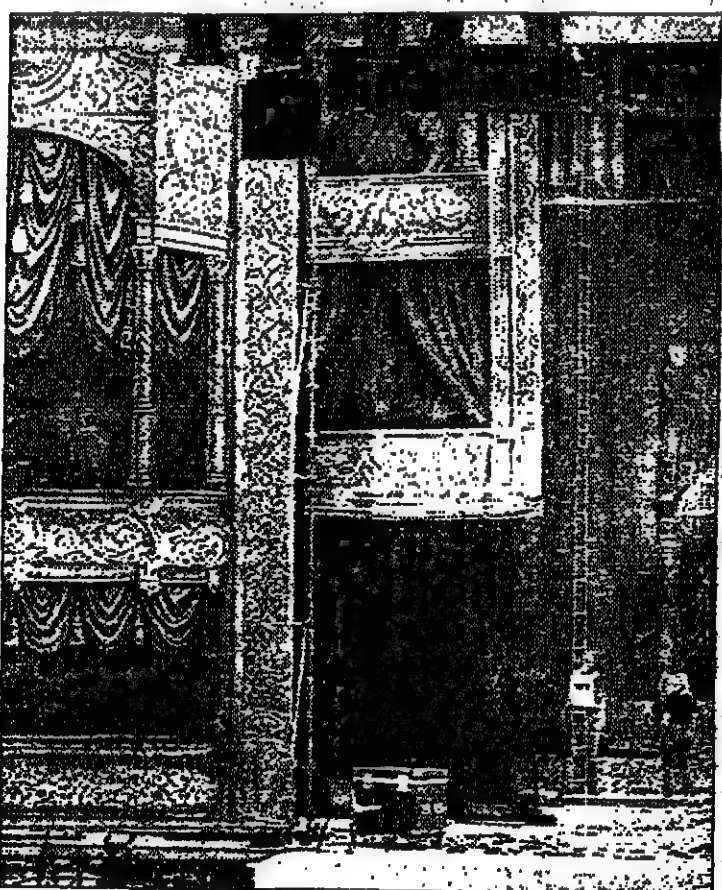
Meanwhile Mr Holohan's team is constructing five hydraulic traps on stage for dramatic entrances using equipment from the Bolshoi, brought over from Helsinki by a fleet of articulated lorries.

The Bolshoi still paints all its own scenery, and their painters from the Bolshoi workshop have worked for a month in Glasgow painting the enormous backcloths which will re-create the burgundy red and gold leaf proscenium of the Bolshoi theatre.

The SECC's acoustics were another potential problem. "We have had the air conditioning serviced," says Mr Holohan, "to make sure there is no extraneous noise." "We are putting cement reinforced panels at the front of the stage and reflective panels around the auditorium. With the configuration of the seating, this means that the audience will all hear the sound at the same time."

Mr Levental feels that the mammoth effort is more than worthwhile. He says: "My dramatic soul was very touched by this opportunity to change the traditional face of the Bolshoi Opera for the world. I am very glad about it all — our first visit to Britain and making opera together." No doubt thousands of eager opera buffs will agree.

LESLEY HARDIE



Big is beautiful: the stage takes shape at the exhibition centre

## A genius for getting lost

The Japanese are mad about the mazes created by an Englishman who is now planning to build his complex puzzles in Britain

Over the last four years, millions of Japanese have gone maze-crazy, largely due to an Englishman they know as "Dr" Landsborough.

Stuart Landsborough's career as a maze designer began 17 years ago with a sheet of plain white paper and a memory of childhood visits to Britain's most famous maze, in the grounds of Hampton Court Palace, a mile from where he grew up.

He was by then living in New Zealand, working in a hotel in the lakeside village of Wanaka on the South Island. "I wanted a business of my own in tourism," he says. "I said to my wife, almost as a joke, let's build a maze."

After months of scribbling and correcting, he came up with his first design. Instead of a hedge maze, like the one at Hampton Court — "we would have needed five to ten years for it to grow" — he made the maze at Wanaka from wood, using 600 posts and one kilometre of walls. "It was built in six weeks. I decided on a 5ft grid pattern, which I could change by putting the walls between different posts, something you can't do with hedge mazes."

Two hundred visitors threaded through Wanaka maze on its opening day in 1973. "It was free on the first day," Mr Landsborough says. "On day two, when they had to pay, there was virtually nobody."

The average time taken to solve the maze was between seven and ten minutes. To see how people tried to negotiate the puzzle, Mr Landsborough sat high above his maze in a lookout, and thought of

ways to improve its design. "I tried to make people go the wrong way... at some corners there was a 50-1 chance of going wrong. I tried to make it harder and stretch the time it would take to finish to 20 minutes."

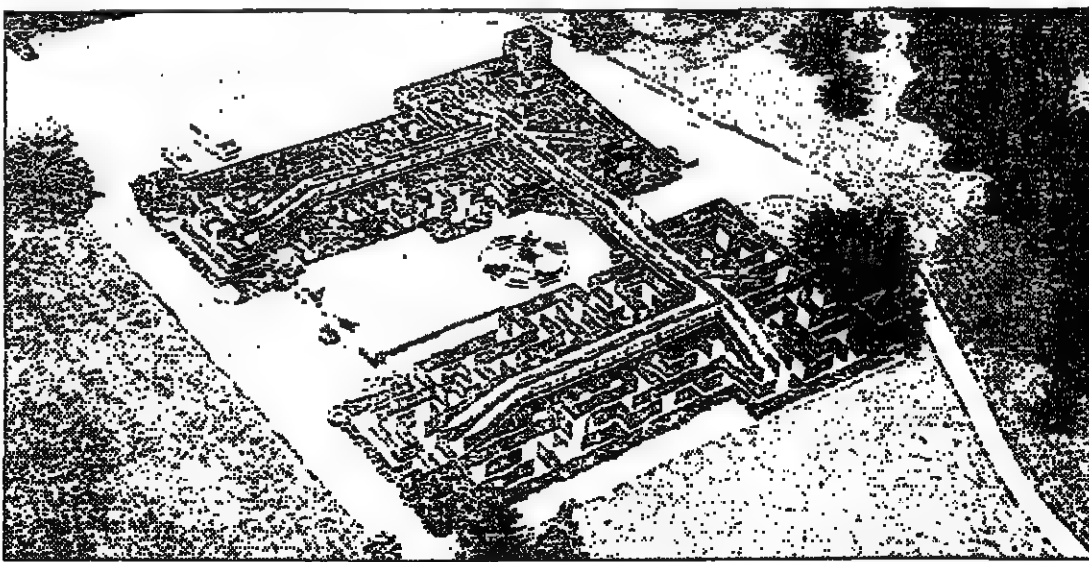
In 1973, 17,000 people snaked through Wanaka maze, and in the next four years the figure almost doubled. In 1977 two Japanese

businessmen came to see it, with a view to introducing commercial mazes into Japan. They were impressed. "When they came, the maze was just on one level. I heard nothing from them afterwards," Mr Landsborough says.

Eight years later, Mr Sukuda and Mr Mori returned to Wanaka. What they saw on the second visit was a redesigned, three-dimen-

sional maze, a complex puzzle with bridges and overhead walkways which took visitors 50 minutes to finish. "The Japanese were suggested at the change. They asked if I'd design mazes for them," he says.

Maze Products Osaka wanted Mr Landsborough to create mazes for them on a scale far bigger and far more complex than anything



Amazing specification: one of the 20 timber-panel mazes built in Japan by Stuart Landsborough

anywhere else in the world. The first of 20 Landsborough mazes in Japan was built near Sapporo in 1986. At Lalaport, near Tokyo, he designed the longest maze in the world, over a mile long, with capacity for 1,500 visitors at any one time. The passageways are so long, soft drinks machines are provided at regular intervals. His smallest maze covers an area only twice the size of an average family house, on top of a department store in Osaka.

From the mini-maze, Mr Landsborough dreamt up the super-maze — "a mini-maze within a great maze. You have to find the mini-maze first, then if you make a mistake you have to go back to the start. Of the great maze, not just the mini-maze."

The maze craze in Japan has reached its peak. Many of the 200 copies of Landsborough mazes in the country have closed down because they were badly located or designed, but the 20 originals are still open. Now Mr Landsborough wants to spread the craze to North America and Britain in time for 1991, the Year of the Maze.

JEREMY HART

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## CINEMA: FILM RESTORATION

## Flickering back to life

Old movies never die, they just get longer, or so it sometimes seems to Geoff Brown, who reports on the booming business of restoring "classic" films so that they can find a new and larger audience

Fifteen years ago, most people thought film restoration meant little old men in lab coats, lost to the world, mending torn sprocket holes. Not so now: film restoration has a glamorous public face. The term conjures up exciting discoveries in garages and dusty vaults, rediscovered masterpieces, black-tie premieres, long lists of sponsor acknowledgments, and all the heavy trappings of cultural prestige.

Napoleon, of course, put the business on the map. Kevin Brownlow's magnificent recreation of Abel Gance's historical spectacular, staged with live orchestral accompaniment at the 1980 London Film Festival, turned the exhumation of cinema's past into a flamboyant media event. Silent cinema came alive to a new generation hot from *Star Wars*. Hollywood big-shot grandly bestowed their imprimatur: Francis Ford Coppola sent the film (emblazoned with his name) on roadshow engagements around America's major cities to cheering throngs — 50,000 at the Radio City Music Hall, 57,000 at Los Angeles's Shrine Auditorium.

Increasingly, studios looked into their own vaults and garages for other classic products that had been mangled by time, bad fortune, or someone's crass scissors. Fox helped reinstate cut footage to Visconti's *The Leopard*, Warner Brothers assisted with *A Star is Born*, while Columbia picked up the bill for lengthening and refurbishing *Lawrence of Arabia*: all of them spending considerable time and money repairing damage which they themselves, under different managements, had largely inflicted in the first place.

The bandwagon shows no sign of halting. At the moment, in London, restoration addicts can sup on Jean Vigo's *L'Atalante*, handsomely supplied with newly found footage that takes the film much closer than before to the director's original conception. From Friday, at the National Film Theatre, recent restoration work by the University of California at Los Angeles is on display. Some of the films stem from the happy discovery of over 2,000 Vitaphone records from the days of Warner Brothers's early experiments with sound on disc; the print of *Venezian Nights*, an original film opera by Sigmund Romberg (showing on Saturday), matches these sounds — lost for decades — to images taken from the only surviving two-colour Technicolor nitrate print. Looming on the horizon, without an immediate British berth, is D. W. Griffith's *Intolerance*, revamped by New

York's Museum of Modern Art in collaboration with the Library of Congress, and the cause of much controversy in archive circles: the eminent film authority William K. Everson, writing in the magazine *Films in Review*, has called the print a "disaster".

Perhaps it is time to take stock. Bringing back legendary films into circulation, endeavouring sympathetically to restore the sound, image, and length to the original dimensions: these are noble goals. The problems start once the men in lab coats take

undue technical liberties with the surviving material, or play havoc with the film's pace: sometimes cut scenes deserve to be cut, no matter how loudly the director cries "Murder!".

Though a Judy Garland workshop might think differently, *A Star is Born* actually benefited from losing most of the 28 minutes snipped out to appease anxious exhibitors in 1954, and restored with great hoop-la in 1983. The restoration's foot-dragging tempo was scarcely enhanced by the use of production stills to

bridge an eight-minute gap in the visual material: a device appropriate to archive reference prints, solely aimed at scholars, but seriously disruptive in a film that sallies forth into commercial cinemas.

According to Everson, professor of cinema studies at New York University, the restored *Intolerance* pursues the device to a maddening degree. The archivists' aim was to concoct a print compatible with the premiere presentation in 1916. At that point, though, this pioneering epic

about man's inhumanity to man down the ages had not yet solidified in Griffith's mind: the director subsequently added extra, well-remembered scenes which have now been smartly removed. The restoration of the original score has also been criticised: Everson writes of bizarre, long periods of silence, blanketing the impact of the screen action.

*Intolerance*, to be sure, is worth all the controversy. But which sane person would wish to see restored the 36 minutes cut from the loud, laborious Stanley Kramer comedy *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*? Yet Eric K. Federing, press secretary for Californian congressman Norman Mineta, has spent eight years rooting out footage in a passionate one-man campaign. When last heard from, he had uncovered 21 of the minutes removed once the film went on general release, though some of his haul bore Japanese subtitles and much of the colour had turned salmon-pink. At least executives of the film's parent company, MGM/UA, kept their heads: "Not a marketable product," one of them snapped last year.

However, film scholarship and a "marketable product" rarely go hand in hand: the tussle between the two forces lies at the root of many a restoration problem. Not just in cinema, either: the astonishing rise of music's authentic instrument brigade can be traced in part to a desire to re-package the past, to make Beethoven concerts a pristine "event" for gourmets, rather than a boring staple for the coach-party trade.

In spending so much time and energy restoring films, buildings, paintings and music to what we conceive as their original state, we are also, by inference, castigating the art works of the present. The promotional leaflet for the American presentation of *Napoleon* played the card out front: "If you sometimes think that movies are not what they used to be, you owe it to yourself to see *Napoleon* and find out just how right you are."

Restoration of an artist's original intentions is an interesting game for the age, and can yield valuable results. But the current film scene proves that the game must be played with care, sympathy and a clear sense of purpose. No one should emulate the Victorian improvers to our nation's cathedrals and produce a restoration that itself need restoring.

Festival of Restoration begins at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 3232) on Friday.



Trendsetter: Abel Gance's *Napoleon*, restored by Kevin Brownlow for the 1980 London Film Festival

## CLASSICAL MUSIC: PIANISTS AT THE PROMS

## Keys to a novel interpretation

Resourceful commuters may vary their journeys to work in a dozen different ways. Yet unless they are especially keen students of railway architecture, a numbing boredom will soon set in: a miniature spiritual death, imposed twice daily by the necessity of earning a living.

Why, does hearing Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto remind me of this? Perhaps because it, too, is one of those journeys that everyone — soloists, conductors, orchestras, listeners — has taken so often that no possible variant remains unexplored. We are dead souls travelling on fixed rails to a known and no longer exciting terminus.

Of course, there are always young listeners bowled over by encountering a venerable old warhorse for the first time, especially at the Proms. And no one forces the rest of us to travel on this particular musical journey. On the other hand, young performers do feel forced, mainly by commercial expectations, to play pieces such as the Tchaikovsky. As Friday's Prom demonstrated, the only thing more frustrating than a gifted young soloist giving an entirely routine interpretation of a well-worn classic is a

gifted young soloist straining his ingenuity to do something different, and only succeeding in sounding perverse.

The young Russian, Evgeny Kissin, is clearly a prodigious talent. As great keyboard technicians go, his is perhaps the oddest-looking since Horowitz: enormous hands splayed like place over the notes, fingers very flat, little lift in the wrists. Yet his double-octaves in the finale had the vicious power of a pile-driver, and he swept through the *prestissimo* section of the second movement like a hunted hare on skates.

To his credit, too, he never followed the predictable path. The heroic opening was slowed down into what was almost a parody of grandeur, while the first movement's cadenza was presented as a bewildering succession of unruly ideas, jostling each other like clashing Titans. David Atherton and the BBC Symphony Orchestra did well to follow Kissin's far-flung pace changes.

The question, however, is whether Kissin really believes that, with his physical and mental gifts, he is doing himself justice by playing Tchaikovsky at all. So many fine yet neglected concertos

are waiting for some young lion to thrust their merits before the public. So many present-day composers would have their imaginations fired by the opportunity to write new concertos for this extraordinary player. Or if they did not, they should cease being composers. If Kissin and his advisers have courage, they would leave conventional repertoire to conventional talents, and seek out new journeys that would be an adventure for us all.

At the Proms two nights later, Cécile Ousset did exactly that, giving Poulenc's impish and entertaining Piano Concerto a sparkling outing. Poulenc is the licensed jester at the court of 20th-century music, but one who is suddenly capable of striking a vein of genuine pathos. In this concerto, for instance, he tickles the ear and the memory with riotous Offenbach-style gallops, pastiche 18th-century *bourrée*, grandiose quasi-Berlioz brass passages or snatches of American popular music (he was fulfilling a Boston Symphony Orchestra commission). Then, without warning, the slow movement is infused with real passion and a hint of desperate loneliness, as if the clown's mask slips to

reveal a face creased with suffering. These lightning changes of mood severely test any pianist's sense of idiom and proportion: Ousset caught everything beautifully, like a skilled society photographer snapping the arrivals at a very oddly assorted ball.

That was in an all-French programme — played by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under its young Japanese principal conductor, Tadaaki Otaka — which gave much cause for pleasure, and a little for concern. The pleasure lay in a splendidly spirited performance of Debussy's *Nocturnes*. The concern lay in Otaka's dreadfully orthodox reading of Fauré's *Requiem*, which ignored all the last decade's revelations about this bizarrely scored work, which was marred by some tired and flat singing from the tenors of the BBC Welsh Chorus, and which had no sense of urgency or consolation. Stephen Roberts was smooth and mellifluous in the baritone solos, and Joan Rodgers sang the treble solo "Pie Jesu" well, given that her voice is about as un-boyish as it is possible to get.

RICHARD MORRISON

## CRITICS' CHOICE: CONCERTS AND RECITALS

**SCREAMING POPES:** Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in a Prom that includes Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Three Screaming Popes* and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. Kyung-Wha Chung plays Bartók's Violin Concerto No 2. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-823 9999), tonight, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12.

**ACCUSED HUNSMAN:** Polish-born Marek Janowski conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a concert which features Le Chasseur maudit, Franck's tone-poem, Schumann's Cello Concerto and Bruckner's Fourth. Albert Hall (as above), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12.

**DOUBLE PROM:** American violinist Joshua Bell is the soloist in Beethoven's Cello Concerto with the Philharmonia conducted by the East German, Claus Peter Flor. Also Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony. Later, the Hilliard Ensemble and Western Wind choir sing the 16th-century *Lamentations* by Thomas Tallis and Arvo Pärt's *Miserere*. Albert Hall (as above), Thur, £3.50-£12 (7pm), £3-£7 (10pm).

**TRAVELLERS' TALES:** Barry Wordsworth conducts the BBC Singers and Concert Orchestra in Constant Lambert's *The Rio Grande*, Prokofiev's *Love for Three Oranges*, Lord Berners' *A Wedding Bouquet*, and Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* with pianists Hilary Macnamara and Howard Shelley. Albert Hall (as above), Fri, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12.

**EARLY MUSIC DOUBLE:** Two programmes for Glasgow's Early Music Festival. Jean-Claude Malgoire directs France's celebrated Grande École et la Chambre du Roy in *Sessore*, four cantatas from 1724 by Boismortier. Christopher Page directs his Gothic Voices in medieval court and church music by Perotin. Stevenson Hall, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Renfrew Street, Glasgow (041-227 5511), Sun, £4 (12.45pm), £8 (8pm).

**SWEDEN TO SNAPE:** British Telecom's Melting Proms features the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Finnish-born Esa-Pekka Salonen with Nielsen's *Sinfonia espansiva*, with soprano Pia-Maria Nilsson and tenor Ole Persson. Heinrich Schiff

is the soloist in the Cello Concerto (No 1) by Shostakovich. Ravel's *Valses nobles et sentimentales* begins the programme. Snape Maltings, Snape, Suffolk (0800 585789), Sun, 7.30pm, £2.50-£12.50.

**PENTECOSTAL YOUTH:** Matthias Bamert conducts the National Youth Orchestra in Gilas Swayne's *Pentecost Music*, played for the first time in London. Pianist Joanna MacGregor plays Ravel's "Left Hand" Concerto and Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra*. Albert Hall (as above), Sun, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12.

**SPAIN TO GLASGOW:** Jordi Savall directs La Capella Reial de Catalunya, a renowned ensemble which performs Catalan music from the 15th and 17th century. Glasgow Cathedral, Glasgow (041-227 5511), Mon, 8pm, £7.50.

**ESTONIAN YOUTH:** Peeter Pärturra conducts the Estonia Youth Chamber Strings in a programme featuring Mozart and Haydn. St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-839 1930), Mon, 7.30pm, £4-£6.

NOEL GOODWIN

HILARY FINCH

## BRIEFING

## As Mozart was saying

OPERA buffs have been mystified by press advertisements for Opera North's 1990-91 season, announcing alongside such familiar titles as *La traviata* and *Carmen* a new production of *The Jewel Box* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Could this be a forgotten masterpiece, tracked down by the musicologist H.C. Robbins Landon in some obscure Austrian monastic archive? Or perhaps a brand new work vouchsafed from beyond the grave to the musical "medium", Rosemary Brown?

Neither. The music has long been known, though rarely performed: *The Jewel Box* is a mosaic of arias and ensembles Mozart wrote in his maturity for Italian comedies other than the ones he completed, a few of the pieces coming from two unfinished operas but most having been written for favourite singers to use as inserts in the operas of other composers. A necklace of unfamiliar Mozart pearls is promised, on a string provided by *The Times* music critic Paul Griffiths, who thus becomes the first librettist to have collaborated with Mozart on an entirely new work since 1791. *The Jewel Box* will preview at the start of the bicentenary year in Leeds before the official first performance in Nottingham.

## Off the wall?

ICELANDAIR has never been icy in its arts sponsorship. Now the enlightened airline's hotel division has plans to commission or buy from living Icelandic artists enough paintings, watercolours and original graphics to decorate every public space and every room in all its associate hotels. Perhaps British Airways and British Airports Authority should follow suit. An art exhibition held over a Bank Holiday weekend in a Heathrow departure lounge would at least be guaranteed a captive audience.

## Stretching out

SIR Kenneth MacMillan is so pleased with the way rehearsals have gone for his new *pas de deux*, *Winter Dreams*, that he has decided to use it as the nucleus of a full one-act ballet. The duet



MacMillan: expanding work

(which was previewed at the Queen Mother's Birthday Gala) will introduce the Royal Ballet's new star, Irek Mukhamedov, to his new company tomorrow evening, partnering Darcey Bussell. It is set out to Tchaikovsky's symphony bearing the same (unofficial) title, but to two of the composer's Romances. The expanded version may be included in next season's Royal Ballet programmes.

## Money manual

FOR the museum or gallery which has everything, except enough money: a newly-published book called *Handbook of Grants* aims to be a comprehensive guide to where to apply for public grants. It has been compiled by the Museum Association's former director-general, Graeme Farnell, who left last year to set up his own consultancy, the Museum Development Company. This is the company that is publishing this loose-leaf, 221-page guide to 140 different sources of public funds, with hundreds of million of pounds between them available for supporting museums, heritage and the visual arts.

The handbook surveys a number of funding bodies whose names might not automatically occur to hard-pressed curators, such as the Nature Conservancy Council, for instance, or the Ministry of Agriculture (for the repair of traditional buildings) and the Scottish Film Council (for exhibitions related to films). The price is £15.95 from the Museum Development Company (0908 690880).

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents  
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**TCHAIKOVSKY**  
National Symphony Orchestra Conductor: CHRISTOPHER ADEY  
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Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture  
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Basinger and 'Crocodile Dundee II' with Paul Hogan. Also, 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles', so make sure you're in. After all, it wouldn't be funny if you missed it. For the full picture on BSB 5 Channel TV, phone us free on 0800 800 200.



5 CHANNEL TV







BBC 1

- 6.00 Cee-fax  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News presented by Laurie Mayer and Jill Dando 8.55 Regional news and weather  
9.00 Blue Bird This... Children's summer programme. Simon Parkin, Philippa Forrester and Claudia Simon. Begins with Belle and Sebastian (7.25 Why Don't You...?)  
10.00 News and weather followed by The Jettisons 10.45 Days at the Playground stop (7)  
10.55 Five to Eleven. Poetry from the award-winning young writers of the Halesworth Middle School in Suffolk.  
11.00 News and weather followed by Peaceable Kingdoms: Essex. A drama based on life in a Los Angeles zoo.  
12.00 News and weather followed by The Golden Party includes Robert Kilroy-Silk and Cynthia Payne at lunch. Molly Bloom, and music from Leo Sayer.  
12.55 Regional news and weather. The O'Clock News with Philip Hayton.  
1.30 Neighbours (Cee-fax)  
1.50 Biting Butler. In the third of six programmes, Tony Butler critics from Staffordshire into the Black Country.  
2.20 Cricket: First Test. Tony Lewis introduces coverage of the final day's play in the first of a three-day series between England and India. Lord's and Jack Bannister are the commentators.

BBC 2

- 7.10am Open University. Cancer: Some of the options. Ends at 7.35  
9.00 Monty Python's Flying Circus (1986) (7)  
9.30 Under Sail. Shamrock V. The largest single-masted vessel in the world, The Shamrock, is also possibly the most beautiful (7)  
9.45 Cricket: First Test. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of yesterday's fourth day's play between England and India at Lord's (7)  
10.25 Sign Extra. A chance to see Clean Slate, the education magazine, with subtitles and sign language.  
10.50 Cricket: First Test. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the final morning's play between England and India at Lord's.  
1.05 Past and Present Preserved: State Museum Kroller Muller. A look at the personal collection of Mrs Kroller Muller, who lived in the St Hubertus hunting lodge in The Netherlands. As well as a Van Gogh collection, the museum boasts works by Mondrian, Van der Laack and Picasso, fine examples of Chinese porcelain and Europe's largest sculpture park. 1.20 Charlie Chalk (7)  
1.35 Cricket and Racing. Cricket: First Test. Further coverage of the final day's play in the first of a three-day series between England and India at Lord's. 2.30 California Wine Stakes 3.10 Gordon Stakes 3.45 Waltham Hill Steward's Cup 4.15 Oak Tree Stakes introduced by Julian Wilson with commentary by Peter O'Sullivan, Jimmy Lindsay and John Hamner. Includes news and weather at 2.00 and 3.00. Ends at 3.55  
6.25 Film: The Big Steel (1949) (b/w).  
Once upon a time there was a cut film director called Don Siegel who made cheap little melodramas that passed most critics by while enjoying a fanatical following among a small minority of

- 4.10 The All New Popeye Show. Cartoon fun with the spin-ach-eating sailor 4.35 The Really Wild Show. Natural history show for children (7)  
5.00 Newsround. News from home and abroad for young viewers 5.05 Come Along With Me. The penultimate episode of the seven-part Australian children's drama serial (7)  
5.35 Neighbours (7) (Cee-fax)  
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sessions and Jill Dando. Weather  
6.30 Regional News Magazines.  
7.00 Last of the Summer Wine: Oh Shut Up and Eat Your Cheese. Roy Clarke's light-hearted comedy which, like the best wine, seems to improve with keeping. Tonight's half hour of fun is built around nothing more substantial than a new-fangled hay bale (7) (Cee-fax)  
7.30 Eastenders. (Cee-fax)  
8.00 To the Manor Born. Perceptive comedy of landed gentry versus nouveau riche, starring Penelope Keith and Peter Bowles. Richard De Vere is forced to enlist Audrey's assistance when negotiating a large business contract (7) (Cee-fax)  
8.30 Carnival Street: Albert's Story. A portrait of five black families showing the strain in the run-up to the Notting Hill Carnival. Albert is 20 and feels that the whole world is against him. He works out, he is fit, but for what? Crime, drugs, street life or music seem to be the only options. (Cee-fax)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. Weather

enthusiasts. Then Siegel moved on to *Cogan's Blue* and *Daddy's Girl* and swam for a while in the critical mainstream before becoming just another Hollywood director. The cutlery were probably right after all. *Shamrock V*, the largest single-masted vessel in the world, The Shamrock, is also possibly the most beautiful (7)



Exotic Greer with Robert Mitchum (6.25pm)

schedules, films such as *The Big Steel*. Like other thrillers of the 1940s it has an enormously complicated plot, but all you need to know is that Robert Mitchum is an army officer who has been framed for theft and is off to Mexico to find the real culprit. What matters, apart from old sleepy eyes and the exotic Jane Greer and a vibrant script, is Siegel's cracking pace and style (7)  
7.35 Bilko (b/w). Vintage comedy starring Phil Silvers (7)  
8.00 Hear-Say. Relationships and Families. Jacqui Harper and Colin Charles discuss the break-up of family life in Britain with poet and



The tragic heroine: Farrah Fawcett (8.30pm)

9.30 Film: *Small Sacrifices* (1989). Farrah Fawcett, who has been carving out a serious career since *Charlie's Angels*, gives an excellent performance as the tragic Oregon divorcee Diane Downs who loses her three children in an attempt to prove her husband (O'Neal) away from his wife. High octane drama with a British director, David Greene. The concluding part is at the same time poignant and powerful.  
11.05 Golf: The Volvo Seniors Open Championship. Peter Allis introduces coverage from Turnberry. Among the veterans on show are Gary Player, Arnold Palmer, Bob Charles and Bill Casper.  
12.05am Weather

playwright, Jean Binta Breeze, father-of-two Fred Butler, who was involved in the American drama *The Day of a Black Man*, and father-of-five Paul Boateng MP and his wife Janet.  
8.30 Wildlife Showcase: Shark Bay. An Australian water preserve that is home not only to its world-famous dolphins, but a plethora of other creatures as well (Cee-fax)  
9.00 Alexei Sayle's Stuff. More wit and wonder from the ad-hoc Marxists alternative comedian. Today the gun sights settle on estate agents and restaurant critics (7)  
9.30 Role to Kanchana.

A four-part series narrated by the reassuring Horacio voice of Paul Vaughan, *Roads to Kanchana* explores China's remarkable achievements in science and technology while Europe was stuck in the dark ages and the subsequent reversal of roles. It is an intriguing theme but only cursorily explored in tonight's film, which almost becomes a list of inventions. We are reminded that the Chinese discovered the clock, the compass, printing and gunpowder and their goodness knows what else. Inspired by the teachings of Confucius they also pioneered the civil service which was recruited on the basis of yet another Chinese invention, the exam. Centuries before such things were known in Europe, the Chinese were mining for iron and salt, mounting ambitious irrigation schemes and inoculating against smallpox. And then China turned in on itself, enjoying peace and harmony but being overtaken by vast economic and social changes on the other side of the world. (Cee-fax)  
10.20 Film: *Exotic Greer* with Robert Mitchum (6.25pm)

10.30 Newsnight  
11.15 Cricket: First Test 11.55 Weather  
12.00 Open University. The Art of Commerce. Ends at 12.30am

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with Good Morning Britain 8.50 Wacaday  
9.25 Me-Man and the Masters of the Universe: *Trouble in Tratia*. Animated adventure of the most powerful man in the universe. (7) 5.50 Thames News and Weather 9.55 Inspector Gadget. Cartoon capers of an inept detective (7)  
10.25 Vicky the Viking: *Arborne*. More from the lovable Viking warrior 10.50 News Headlines  
10.55 The Littlest Hobo: *Target for Terror*. Adventures of an heroic stevedore.  
11.25 Fun for the Record. Louise Wallace meets the youngest professional drummer in the world 11.50 Thames News and Weather  
11.55 Tube Mice: *Marathon Mice/What a Difference a Day Makes* (7)  
12.05 Rod, Jane and Freddy. *The Garden*. Fun for younger viewers (7) 12.25 Home and Away 12.55 Thames News and Weather  
1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather  
1.20 Coronation Street. A repeat of last night's episode  
1.50 A Country Practice. Australian medical drama serial 2.20 Takes the High Road. Highland soap set in the village of Glendarrach  
2.50 What's My Line? *Jelly Cooper*. Roy Hudd, Simon Williams and Kim Hartman try to discover people's odd occupations. Hosted by Angela Rippon  
3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News and Weather 3.25 Families. Bi-continental soap set in Australia and northern England  
3.55 Turn on to T-Bag 4.20 Under the Badolches. Children's series about books presented by Carolyn Marshall. There is a review of *Futuretrack 5* by Robert Westall 4.45 Scooby Doo: *20,000 Leagues under the Sea* (7)  
5.10 Blockbusters. With Bob Holness  
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather  
5.55 Thames Help. Presented by Jackie Sprockley (Cee-fax)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Noah's Ark. Exploring the Angel waterfall in Venezuela, the highest in the world (7)  
6.20 Business Daily  
6.30 The Channel Four Daily  
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Stunning images set to a soothing soundtrack  
11.00 As It Happens. Victoria Studd and her camera crew visit the Barbican Centre in London to catch life on the set of *As It Happens*  
12.00 Way of the Lakes. Tony Warburton takes a stroll in the Lake District and reveals the pleasures and anxieties of those who live and work there  
12.30 Business Daily  
1.00 Sesame Street (7)  
2.00 Film: *Hitler's Madman* (1943, b/w). John Carradine and Alan Curtis star in a trenchant second world war drama about the hated Reinhardt Heydrich, Hitler's man in Czechoslovakia. The Hollywood debut of the Danish émigré director, Douglas Sirk, who became better known for lush melodramas.  
3.35 Frustrated Cooper and Bird's Eye View. American animation  
3.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show. With pop group New Kids on the Block  
4.30 Countdown  
5.00 The Lone Ranger (b/w). Vintage western series starring Clayton Moore

- 6.00 Home and Away (7)  
6.30 Thames News and weather. A round-up of the region's news. With Andrew Gardner and Liz Pavey  
7.00 Emmerdale. Drama serial set in the farming community of Beckindale (Gracie)  
7.30 Thames Action: The Northern Line. The first in a new series in which members of the public carry their own investigations into current issues. Tonight's programme features a film made secretly by six Londoners about travelling on the notorious Northern Line during the rush hour  
8.00 The Bill: *Feeling Brave*. The quality of this show leaves all imitators trailing sadly in its wake. DI Carve makes a promise to himself after being threatened with a sawn-off shotgun (Gracie)  
8.30 The Lipper Hand. Welcome Home, part two. Uninspired British version of the American comedy series *Who's the Boss?*  
9.00 Made in Heaven. *Falling for Love*

The second in the series of light-hearted romances based on a marriage bureau follows the pattern of the first in offering two intercut stories. In the first and by far the stronger, Julie Conington plays a scatty journalist who goes to interview a Japanese fashion designer (Richard Rees) and almost before she has a chance to file her copy has agreed to marry him. This is the cue for a nicely played, if predictable, scenario in which she tries to go Japanese by inviting her friends to squat on the floor and eat raw fish. The second story features a young couple who are determined to be married in mid-air during a tree-fall from an aircraft. Despite a good joke about the search for a parachuting vicar, the idea is played for rather less than it is worth. Similarly underdeveloped, at least so far, is the relationship between the owners of the wedding agency whose own marriage has, ironically, failed. (Gracie)  
10.00 News at Ten includes an interview with the Prime Minister by Alastair Burnet 10.30 Thames News

- 10.35 Viewpoint 90: Ceausescu's Children.  
The following children, their faces crawling with flies, capture an image of third world Africa. Instead we are in third world Europe, gazing on one of the tragic legacies of President Ceausescu of Romania. When his dreadful regime collapsed last year it left behind more than 100,000 children, consigned to orphanages



Abandoned: Gabriel in Romania (10.35pm)

because no one wanted them. Few of them were true orphans. Most were victims of Ceausescu's policy of trying to increase the population by banning contraception and abortion. This led to unwanted births and young mouths which the Romanian economy was unable to feed. Patricia Ingram's film shows the valiant attempts of the new government, with help from abroad, to pick up the pieces. In many cases it may be too late. Inoculated with unscreened blood and dirty needles, more than 600 children have AIDS. Two nurses from Britain report a heartening improvement at one Bucharest orphanage but realise they are only beginning to scratch the surface.  
11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H  
12.30am Room for Change: The Hall  
1.00 Video View with Manilla Fostrop 1.30 Kojak  
2.30 Donahue  
3.30 Quiz Night  
4.00 Entertainment UK  
5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

RADIO 1

FM Stereo & MW  
News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 4.30pm, then at 7.30, 8.30 and 10.00  
6.30am Johnnie Walker 6.30am News  
May 9.00am Simon Bates 10.00 The Radio 1 Roadshow 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00pm Newsbeat in the Afternoon 5.30pm News 6.00pm News  
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5.35am News 5.50am News 6.00pm News

RADIO 2

FM Stereo & MW  
News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 4.30pm, then at 7.30, 8.30 and 10.00  
6.30am Johnnie Walker 6.30am News  
May 9.00am Simon Bates 10.00 The Radio 1 Roadshow 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00pm Newsbeat in the Afternoon 5.30pm News 6.00pm News  
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5.35am News 5.50am News 6.00pm News

WORLD SERVICE

All times in EST  
6.00am World News 6.09 8.00 News 8.30 Newsround 8.50 News 9.00 News 9.30 News 9.50 News 10.00 News 10.30 News 10.50 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 11.50 News 12.00 News 12.30 News 12.50 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.50 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 2.50 News 3.00 News 3.30 News 3.50 News 4.00 News 4.30 News 4.50 News 5.00 News 5.30 News 5.50 News 6.00 News 6.30 News 6.50 News 7.00 News 7.30 News 7.50 News 8.00 News 8.30 News 8.50 News 9.00 News 9.30 News 9.50 News 10.00 News 10.30 News 10.50 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 11.50 News 12.00 News 12.30 News 12.50 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.50 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 2.50 News 3.00 News 3.30 News 3.50 News 4.00 News 4.30 News 4.50 News 5.00 News 5.30 News 5.50 News 6.00 News 6.30 News 6.50 News 7.00 News 7.30 News 7.50 News 8.00 News 8.30 News 8.50 News 9.00 News 9.30 News 9.50 News 10.00 News 10.30 News 10.50 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 11.50 News 12.00 News 12.30 News 12.50 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.50 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 2.50 News 3.00 News 3.30 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## BUSINESS

TUESDAY JULY 31 1990

مكتبات الصحف

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## Cambridge again urges devaluing of pound

By Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

Nobody can accuse Wynne Godley and his Cambridge associates of inconsistency. In a new broadside against the economic policies of the Thatcher years they once again urge devaluation of the pound as the best way to protect British industry and cut the trade deficit, a prescription that has been issued from Cambridge since the early Seventies.

A study published today by the left of centre Institute for Public Policy Research, says the British economy is too weak to withstand membership of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System at current exchange rates. Membership could help to control inflation but should be accompanied by a 12-15 per cent devaluation of the pound.

The Cambridge economists couple their devaluation prescription with several other familiar recommendations including the introduction of credit controls and, if necessary, tax increases, a shift of resources into investment, a "minimal" increase in public spending of £12 billion a year and incomes policy returning to the top of the political agenda.

A full chapter of the study is devoted to arguing the importance of the balance of payments and attacking the view that a current account deficit can be sustained for a long time so long as the government's accounts are in surplus.

To cut the current account deficit, a big reduction in personal consumption is necessary to slow the growth in imports. "Consumption may need to be cut as much as 8 per cent below what it would otherwise have been. The best way of doing this is likely to be credit controls, but taxes may have to be increased as well."

The result of such a squeeze would be to generate a severe recession unless net exports could take up some of the slack. A big increase in manufacturing investment and a 15-20 per cent devaluation of the real exchange rate is, therefore, needed.

The Cambridge economists say that, taking the Thatcher years as a whole, Britain has had the slowest rate of growth since the war. Previous warnings by the Cambridge Economic Policy Group have been borne out, the authors say.

*Britain's Economic Problems and Policies in the 1990s* by Ken Courts, Wynne Godley, Bob Rowthorn and Gennaro Zezza.

Japanese pay £743m for control of computer firm  
ICL to be floated by Fujitsu

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

ICL, Britain's largest computer company, will be brought back to the stock market in five years' time in a move which will give Fujitsu, its new owner, a book profit of at least £260 million.

The Japanese computer group yesterday agreed to buy an 80 per cent stake in ICL for £743 million from STC, the telecommunications group. It also revealed plans to float at least a quarter of the company by 1995 at a minimum of 225p a share. That compares with yesterday's sale price of about 164p a share.

STC has said it will float at least 15 per cent of its stake, with the other 10 per cent coming from Fujitsu.

At the minimum price, STC's entire stake will be worth £234 million, and Fujitsu's £777 million.

Peter Bonfield, ICL's chairman, predicted his company would have sales of £4 billion by the flotation date, compared with £1.6 billion last year, the result of acquisitions and 10 per cent annual growth.

Arthur Walsh, STC's chairman, faced criticism that ICL had been sold too cheaply. "We discussed an arrangement with many other companies and this was by far the most suitable," he said.

He denied there had been a board split over the decision to sell a majority stake. "The STC board was unanimous and that will appear in our circular," he said. "I was most concerned that the management lines in ICL were clear. Many so-called alliances simply don't work because there are two companies trying to talk to each other as equals."

STC is selling the stake in ICL for £700 million in cash, and its American operations for a further £42.8 million. It is also taking a £32.3 million dividend out of the company, and is retaining property worth £35 million, which ICL will have to rent.

Takuma Yamamoto, Fujitsu's chairman, said ICL will become a member company of his group but remain a European information systems specialist. "This commitment to ICL guarantees it will continue to be a major European player in information technology," he said.

The acquisition makes Fujitsu the second largest computer group in the world after IBM, with a combined turnover of £11.4 billion. The group will fund the acquisition with a mixture of

cash, a share issue and commercial paper.

STC's shares slumped by 21p to 267p when the City realised the sale would dilute the group's profits this year. The sale is due to be completed in November, while ICL is expected to make £50 million, a large part of its profits, in December. The disposal will have a neutral effect on earnings next year.

The group also published results for the six months to July 1, with pre-tax profits down by 32 per cent to £77.7 million. This was despite a £12.9 million gain from a pension holiday.

The damage was caused principally by a 26 per cent fall in sales to British Telecom, STC's largest customer. This cost £17.6 million in profits.

Profits were also reduced by £15 million because of product launch costs at ICL, and by £11 million after the company was forced to strengthen some of its submarine cables.

Les Cullen, financial director, said that although the second half would be better, the group would not match last year's profit of £278 million. The interim dividend rises by 0.25p to 4p a share.

STC will be left with net cash of almost £700 million after the sale of ICL, 45 per cent of its total stock market value. Mr Walsh said the money would be used to develop the communications operations, and that STC was already talking to several European companies to strengthen its business on the Continent.

"The agreement we reached today gives the communications side massive resources to ensure the success of its businesses," he said.

Mr Walsh said STC had won two cable laying contracts. One will link the Japanese islands of Kyushu and Okinawa, 860 kilometres apart, and is worth \$40 million. The other will run between the Spanish mainland and the Canary Islands, and bring in £45 million.

STC bought control of ICL in 1984 for £411 million. At the time, it wanted to diversify to reduce its dependency on cables. It is now returning to them. Three years before, ICL had linked up with Fujitsu by signing a ten-year co-operation agreement. Under the terms of this, Fujitsu made the chips for ICL's computers. The imminent expiry of the agreement was a factor in STC's search for an international partner.

Comment, page 27

THE European Commission will carefully watch Fujitsu's 80 per cent buyout of ICL for any breach of EC competition rules but has not decided whether to launch a formal investigation at this stage, EC sources said.

A senior adviser to Sir Leon Brittan, EC commissioner for competition policy, said after a meeting held in anticipation of the announcement, that "we will certainly look closely at it as we would any merger of equivalent size".

The commission was expecting to be notified formally of the merger, but no notification had yet been received. If Sir Leon did decide to open an inquiry, first by seeking further details of the merger from the partners concerned, he would not need the prior consent of his 16 commission colleagues.

The announcement comes just six weeks before Brussels

and sealed before September 21. Brussels could still open an inquiry, but under slower, more cumbersome rules, risking an overlap with London if the Monopolies and Mergers Commission chose to investigate the merger.

Separate sources in the commission say Brussels would be unlikely to investigate at this early stage, and certainly not until it had full information about any threat which the deal might pose to the delicate balance of competition in the computer market.

To fall under these rules, a merger must have a combined turnover of more than £3.1 billion a year in the world market and a combined turnover of more than £175,500 million a year in the European Community market. In addition, if two thirds of business in the EC is generated in just one member country, the merger will fall to national competition authorities to investigate.

If the deal is legally signed

computer market", Sir Leon could only formally investigate the merger between Fujitsu and ICL on competition grounds, but any potential contribution to research, or any major improvement in the level of technology in Europe, could swing EC anti-trust officials in favour of the deal.

Technical experts in Brussels suspect that it does not herald a massive transfer of know-how from Japan to Europe. But one official said: "The Japanese could have a profound impact by rationalising (ICL) and improving its production performance".

There is a fear in Brussels, however, that by promoting a bid from Japan rather than the European Community, ICL may draw a more sceptical response when trying to enter joint co-operation ventures with other European companies.



Taking over: Takuma Yamamoto says ICL will continue as a major European player in information technology

## Brittan to keep close watch on deal for signs of rule breaches

From Peter Guilford in Brussels

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-30  
● LAW 32,33  
● SPORT 36-40

## Bid talks fail at Atkins

ATKINS Brothers (Hosiery), a Leicestershire textile company, reports the breakdown of the bid talks with an unnamed third party that were disclosed earlier this month.

However, the company is "continuing to explore with its financial advisers, Brown Shipley, alternative strategies aimed at maximising value for Atkins's shareholders."

The company is revising its reports and accounts in the light of legal advice after a technical breach of the 1985 Companies Act during a share buyback.

Because shareholders have been unable to approve the 1990 report and accounts, Atkins is paying a second interim dividend of 8.4p on August 6 in lieu of the dividend of the same amount. Interim accounts are being filed for the year to March 31.

## Molins higher

Molins, the cigarette machine maker under attack from Leucadia, reports interim pre-tax profits of £7 million (£6.3 million) and is raising the dividend from 2.5p to 3p a share.

Tempus, page 27

## Redland talks

Laforge Coppée, the French building materials group, is in talks to take a stake in Redland Plasterboard, a joint venture between the Redland tiles, bricks and aggregates group and Australia's CSR building materials group.

French offensive, page 27

## Securicorp jump

Securicorp Group reports pre-tax profits up 69.5 per cent to £30.9 million for the six months to end-March. Security Services, which is 51 per cent owned, posted a 61.2 per cent rise to £22.5 million. The interim dividends for both were up by 40 per cent to 0.616p for Securicorp and 1.291p for Services. Tempus, page 27

## Turkey Trust

Dealings in Colonnade Development Capital have been suspended at 205p, pending the relaunch of the company as a single-country investment trust. The company is to be renamed The Turkey Trust and will specialise in investment in quoted and unquoted Turkish companies.

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.8440 (-0.0095)  
W German mark 2.9675 (-0.0082)  
Exchange index 94.1 (+0.2)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1838.1 (-4.0)  
FT-SE 100 2318.5 (-13.6)  
New York Dow Jones 2882.43 (-16.08)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 30442.95 (-420.53)  
Closing Prices ... Page 29

Major indices and major changes Page 28

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 15%  
3-month interbank 15-14 1/2%  
3-month eligible bills 14 1/4-14 1/2%  
US: Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 7 1/4-7 1/2%  
3-month Treasury Bill 7 5/8-7 7/8%  
30-year bonds 10 3/4-10 7/8%

## CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£/\$ 1.8440  
£/DM 1.9675  
£/Sfr 1.3650  
£/FF 16.50  
£/Yen 148.10  
£/Index 64.7  
ECU 10 666702  
SDR 10 351533

## GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM 336.50 pm 336.70  
close 336.50-337.00 (198 50 199 00)  
New York:  
Comex 336.50-337.40

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Aug) ... \$19.10/bbl (\$18.85)  
\* Denotes latest trading price

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.44	2.44
Austria S	21.44	20.85
Belgium F	63.90	59.50
Canada C	1.25	1.25
Denmark Kr	11.80	11.10
Finland Mk	7.28	6.98
France F	10.34	9.74
Germany DM	3.08	2.90
Greece Dr	297	291
Hong Kong \$	14.80	14.00
India Rupee	1.155	1.065
Irish P	2.25	2.10
Italy Lira	2250	2130
Japan Yen	2250	2130
Netherlands Gld	3.46	3.27
Norway Kr	11.85	11.25
Portugal Esc	201	206
South Africa Rd	5.90	5.00
Spain Ptas	166.25	177.25
Sweden Kr	11.20	10.60
Switzerland Fr	2.617	2.457
Turkey Lira	1.825	1.82
USA \$	25	19

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 126.7 (June)

## High rates help pound edge up

By Colin Nibbrough

THE pound closed slightly firmer yesterday, supported by high domestic interest rates and nervousness about other leading currencies, though below its strongest for the day. On its trade-weighted index it ended at 94.1, a 0.2 rise.

The latest US growth data and a weaker Wall Street allowed sterling to gain nearly a cent to finish at \$1.844. It was 0.83 of a pence higher at DM2.9675.

Final Bank of England figures showed M0, the Treasury's narrow money supply measure - mainly notes and coin in circulation - growing at an annual 6.5 per cent in June after 6.9 per cent in May, against the official 1-5 per cent target range.

## Higher fares warning from BAA

By Stephen Leather

THE single European market is set to cost BAA, which owns eight airports in the United Kingdom, up to £50 million and lead to higher fares for passengers.

The warning of more expensive air fares came from BAA's chairman, Sir Norman Payne, at the company's annual meeting yesterday.

The firm currently makes £50 million on duty-free sales to travellers moving within the European Community, and this would be lost after the removal of physical, fiscal and technical barriers by the end of 1992.

"In reality we do not expect all barriers to be removed by the end of 1992," Sir Norman told hundreds of shareholders at Grosvenor House in London.

"In time this may occur and in the meantime the company is exploring ways of recover-

## Citygrove warns of 'substantial losses'

By Martin Barrow

SHARES in Citygrove fell 7p to 18p after the property developer gave warning of "substantial losses" for the six months to the end of May. Payment of the November instalment of the preference dividend is now in doubt.

The company also announced a boardroom shake-up, triggered by the resignation of David Woolf as chairman and chief executive. David White, a non-executive director since 1987, becomes non-executive chairman. Ernest Sheavills is appointed chief executive.

Last year Citygrove reduced the total dividend from 7.5p a share to 3p, after failing to make a final payment. A change in accounting procedures had effectively reduced

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"In time this may occur and in the meantime the company is exploring ways of recover-

## Sale sign goes up at Bardon

By Martin Barrow

PETER TOM, chairman of Bardon Group, the quarrying and building company, and family members controlling 57 per cent, say they will consider offers for the family's holding.

Bardon yesterday announced a slump in interim pre-tax profits from £3.24 million to £1.01 million, but is maintaining the interim dividend at 0.96p. Interim turnover was £53.2 million (£65.5 million). The shares rose 29p to 175p, in what analysts said was a reaction more to do with expected valuations of reserves than the results.

The group blames the profits setback on the moratorium on capital spending in Massachusetts and a weak British economy.

## Higher fares warning from BAA

By Stephen Leather

THE single European market is set to cost BAA, which owns eight airports in the United Kingdom, up to £50 million and lead to higher fares for passengers.

The warning of more expensive air fares came from BAA's chairman, Sir Norman Payne, at the company's annual meeting yesterday.

The firm currently makes £50 million on duty-free sales to travellers moving within the European Community, and this would be lost after the removal of physical, fiscal and technical barriers by the end of 1992.

"In reality we do not expect all barriers to be removed by the end of 1992," Sir Norman told hundreds of shareholders at Grosvenor House in London.

"In time this may occur and in the meantime the company is exploring ways of recover-

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# Perks banned in new SIB rules on 'soft commissions'

By ANGELA MACKAY

HEDONISTIC kickbacks such as shooting weekends in Scotland and mining tours of Australia in return for commission business from fund managers have been outlawed by the Securities and Investments Board in its long-awaited rules on "soft commissions".

Soft commission arrangements involve an institutional fund manager agreeing to provide a broker with a set amount of commission each year in return for services such as a Reuters screen, safe custody fees, computer hardware, market research and portfolio management advice.

In the new policy statement published yesterday, the SIB dropped the proposal for a "cap" on the amount of soft commission business undertaken by fund managers in addition to leaving the issue of the maximum multiple payable for soft commission services to market forces.

The multiple is the ratio between the cost of the service provided and the amount of commission paid.

Britain is well behind America, where the use of soft commissions has been widespread for more than 15 years. About 35 per cent of all institutional stock exchange commissions are paid via soft commission arrangements in America, against about 13 per cent in Britain.

The SIB rules follow the

American model regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Clive Sinclair-Poulton, of Javelin Securities, one of a few soft commission specialists in Britain, said: "At long last, the ultimate client will know where his commission is going and be able to assess whether he is getting true value for money."

"In the interests of 'best execution', trustees will have the right to have the application of their commissions disclosed."

David Walker, the SIB's chairman, said it would be up to the Investment Managers Regulatory Organisation to monitor the scale of "soft services". The SIB would not regulate a fixed-rate contrary to the proposals put forward last year in a consultative paper.

Warburg Securities, for example, has embarked on an aggressive pricing policy in the lead-up to the new rules by reducing the pricing of the softing arrangement and causing consternation among the small specialists who cannot offset the cost of undercutting the market.

The SIB, however, decided to ban "soft for net" arrangements for the provision of services in exchange for a committed amount of business between fund managers and market-makers or other dealers.

## Herrington clients face lengthy wait

By OUR MONEY STAFF

CLIENTS of Herrington Financial Services, the investment firm suspended two weeks ago after enquiries into share dealing activities, may have to wait weeks to learn the fate of their investments.

More than 120 investors who attended a meeting in Newcastle yesterday were told investigations were continuing and could take some time to complete.

Edward Kleimka and Gordon Goldie of Coopers Deloitte, the accountant, who are joint trustees of the company's assets, said a second meeting would be held once more facts were known.

Herrington was suspended on July 19 after financial regulators became concerned about certain share transactions undertaken by the

company. Between 300 and 600 investors, mainly in the Northeast, have placed £10 million with the company. The size of portfolios ranges from £2,000 to £100,000.

Mr Goldie said the main role of the trustees remained to preserve and protect clients' funds. "At some point [we] will be able to go back to the Securities and Investments Board," he added.

The majority of clients are expected to get their money back, but the trustees have given warning that some investments may be difficult to realise. About £4.2 million of the £10 million under management was placed in broker bonds managed by a group of life insurance companies. The rest was placed in discretionary funds.

# Ashtead profits surge to £7.8m



Backing the building industry trend: Peter Lewis, Ashtead's chairman (left), and George Barnett, managing director.

ASHTHEAD Group, the USM-quoted plant-hire concern, confirmed plans to seek a full listing in October after reporting taxable profits up 41.8 per cent to £7.82 million for the year to the end of April (Martin Barrow writes).

The dividend rises 50 per cent to 3.75p, with a 2.75p final, payable from earnings up 23 per cent to 28.44p a share.

Despite difficult trading conditions in the construction industry, the company achieved record operating margins of 30 per cent, said Peter Lewis, chairman.

Ashtead's 49 A-Plant hire centres have a 5 per cent market share in the UK.

In April, Ashtead moved into the off-road survey and inspection sector with the acquisition of Subpek for a maximum profit-related consideration of £5.8 million. One month later the company made its first acquisition in the United States, paying an initial \$413,000 for Sunbelt Equipment and Rental, with outlets in North and South Carolina.

Capital expenditure of £12 million, excluding acquisitions, was funded out

of positive cash flow of £15 million. Year-end borrowings totalled £10.6 million, about 71 per cent of shareholders' funds, and interest charges rose from £603,000 to £1.13 million.

"British industry faces another difficult year and the UK plant hire market will not be exempt," said Mr Lewis. However, turnover for the first two months of the current year was ahead of the comparable period of last year.

Times, page 27

## Tax rules 'needed for the state'

By RODNEY LORD ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN needs a fiscal constitution to limit the taxing powers of predatory governments, says a new pamphlet published by the Social Market Foundation.

Professor Deepak Lal of University College, London, says the British have lost the healthy scepticism about government "benevolence" which they had when they executed Charles I.

In a proposed set of rules to be imposed on the state, he says central government revenues should be raised through a uniform VAT and a progressive expenditure tax at a maximum rate of 20 per cent, which, unlike income tax, would give people tax exemption through saving.

No taxation of capital would be permitted and no borrowing, with all budgets to be balanced. Specific taxes would be earmarked for the financing of public goods, such as petrol duty for road construction. Local authorities could levy poll and sales taxes up to a certain limit.

## Kosset buyout saves 700 jobs

By JONATHAN PRYNN

KOSSET Carpets, the Bradford-based carpet manufacturer, has been sold to management in the second management buyout from the receiver of Coleroll to be announced within a week.

Last week 31 led a "£5 million-£10 million" buyout of Denby Tableware, the large first disposal from Coleroll, since the home products group went into receivership in June.

Ernst & Young, the Coleroll receiver, will not reveal the exact size of the Kosset buyout, but it involves a funding package of £17 million, covering the purchase price and a working capital facility thought to be about £7 million.

Kosset has sales of £60 million and currently makes annual profits of about £1 million. It was acquired by Coleroll as a loss-making subsidiary of John Crowther in 1988 when the current management was put in place. Kosset lost about £5 million in 1987 and £2 million in 1989.

## Poddington chairman resigns

By JON ASHWORTH

LEONARD Lee has resigned as non-executive chairman of Poddington, the cartoon marketing company.

Mr Lee was arrested on July 17 and charged with creating a false or misleading impression by dealing in its shares between January 1, 1989, and July 18, 1990.

He has been released on conditional bail, and is due to appear in court on October 18. Ian Green, managing director of Poddington, is the acting chairman.

The Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) has suspended Alexander Securities, the share dealing firm.

It also suspended Bernard Garner, a director of Alexander Securities and former Fimbra compliance officer.

Fimbra said it was acting on information relating to share dealings in Poddington and Cleves Investments.

The order against Alexander Securities and Mr Garner will last until Wednesday.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Groupe Bull to cut jobs as losses deepen

GROUPE Bull, the French state-owned computer company, yesterday posted a loss of Fr1.88 billion for the six months to June 30—almost double its expected shortfall. As yesterday's announcement does not detail the extraordinary costs of Groupe Bull's reorganisation, it is impossible to compare it with last year's first-half loss of Fr537 million. Details of the extraordinary items will be announced at the end of the year. Yesterday's loss was struck on sales of Fr15.9 billion.

The loss reflected the general malaise that has hit the European computer industry in the past year in the face of stiff competition from Japan and the United States. To return to profitability, Groupe Bull plans to cut its workforce by 3,000, eliminate repetition of staff in its European and North American research and development teams and rationalise its manufacturing capacity.

### Sturge takes Hitech agrees to Whitecroft

STURGE Holdings, the insurance broker, is to acquire a majority shareholding in Donner Underwriting Holdings. DUH is an independent member agency in the Lloyd's of London insurance market. Sturge said the combined group will be one of the largest members agencies at Lloyd's, with some 3,150 names and an aggregate capacity in excess of £1.3 billion. DUH will remain an independent agency within the Sturge group.

WHITECROFT, the industrial holdings group, has made a £3.9 million recommended offer for Hitech Lighting, a manufacturer and distributor of low-voltage display lighting products. Whitecroft's offer values each Hitech share at 271p. Hitech saw pre-tax profit slump from £1.09 million to £174,000 in the year to end-March, on turnover of £6.2 million. Whitecroft shares eased by 1p to 270p.

### Merrydown up 27%

LAST year's long, hot summer benefited Merrydown Wine, the independent USM cider, wine and healthfoods group. Pre-tax profits advanced by 27 per cent, to £2.12 million, in the year to end-March, on turnover ahead by 14 per cent, to £14.9 million. The fine weather, greater advertising by the industry and new product launches boosted cider sales, as well as benefiting own-label apple juice.

The final dividend is raised to 6p (4.9p), making an improved total of 7p (5.8p) for the year. Earnings per share climb from 19.71p to 23.43p, adjusted for 1989's one-for-eight scrip issue, which is proposed again this year. Gearing stood at about 16 per cent.

### Severn Trent Alpine cuts pre-tax loss

SEVERN Trent, one of the ten water companies in England and Wales privatised last year, has won a consultancy contract to help set up a sewage treatment and sludge disposal business in Flanders, Belgium. Severn Trent will provide advice for an initial six-month period to GIMV (Investment Company of Flanders), which is setting up the business. Aquam, in conjunction with the Flemish Ministry for Environmental Affairs.

The shares traded by 1p to 10p.

### Cooper Clarke ahead

COOPER Clarke Group, the Manchester-based distributor of specialised building products, lifted pre-tax profits 19 per cent to £933,000 in the year to April 28. The group, which came to the USM last September, introduced new products during the year and increased its market share. Turnover advanced 34 per cent, to £22.4 million.

Earnings per share climb from 8.52p to 8.74p. There is a final dividend of 3p, making 4.5p for the year. In May, Cooper Clarke acquired a majority holding in Unigrate, which manufactures specialist replacement gratings for the local authority market, for about £200,000. The shares, traded by 2p to 73p.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Working for a successful end to latest round of GATT talks

From Mr A. B. Marshall

Sir, At a recent meeting of the British-North American Committee at Gleneagles, we considered the progress being made by politicians and their officials in the current GATT Round of multilateral trade negotiations. We were disturbed at the apparent lack of agreement on a range of important issues. All the members present at the meeting, who are among the leaders of the private sectors of the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, wish to affirm their support at this time for a strong and effective GATT system that will provide the framework for world trade to grow. In our opinion, failure to bring the Uruguay

Round to a successful conclusion at the end of this year would be extremely detrimental to the world economy. We therefore urge our political leaders to make sure that this opportunity to promote expansion in world trade is not lost.

A copy of the text of the Statement, signed by 85 members, is available to any who would like it.

Yours faithfully,  
A. B. MARSHALL,  
British chairman,  
British-North American Committee,  
35-37, Grosvenor Gardens,  
SW1.  
July 23.

### Credit argument lacks credibility

From the chief executive of Colorgraphic

Sir, There are three gross inconsistencies in the government's attempts to discredit (and hence reduce) the marketing of credit to consumers. These are:

1 The marketing of many consumer goods and services involves credit marketing. From "0 per cent finance deals" to "no interest starter mortgages" the attractions of credit are seductively deployed. Does the government wish to control these activities?

2 The marketing of anything can always be attacked by those who believe that consumers do not (or perhaps should not) have the wit or strength of character to resist the blandishments of the advertiser. Does the government now believe in the "Nanny State" where once we were urged to "stand on our own feet"?

3 The exhortations to reduce the marketing of credit do not contain the force of law despite being uttered forcefully by treasury ministers. As yet, because of the British attitude of deference, a word from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the chairmen of the clearing banks does mean that the marketing departments of those banks are reducing their activities.

Is this the way we have been promised we will be governed? If the government decides to legislate, so be it, then at least the arguments will be fairly aired.

In the absence of an attempt at such legislation, the columns of your publication are, sir, our best defence against the inequities of government by whisper.

Yours faithfully,  
N P D WINKS,  
Chief executive,  
Colorgraphic PLC,  
Response House,  
Saxby Street,  
Leicester, July 5.

### Why lower house prices benefit the selfishness of the many

From Mr G. Alexander Edmonds

Sir, Your letter from Mr Spur (Business Letters, July 24) regarding lower house prices reminds me of a delightful scene in the BBC serial *I, Claudius* where one of the Emperor's two secretaries is discovered to be engineering higher grain prices.

When accused by his colleague of selfishness he replied that the selfishness of the many who would benefit from lower prices was therefore a greater selfishness. The fact is

that when many more people have mortgages they prefer to see their asset appreciate rather than decline, even though, as everyone would prefer to live in a greater priced residence, a fall would come closer to fulfilling their wish, since a rise only puts it further out of reach.

On the subject, I would comment that in provincial Italy, and in many parts of Europe, house prices are exactly double London levels and in Paris, Geneva and Milan they are triple. It is very

easy to see the supply side of UK housing—it looms on the horizon—but what you cannot see are the two or three families sharing two-up-two-down houses with outside bathrooms over vast areas of peripheral inner cities all over England. The demand side should not be underestimated.

Yours faithfully,  
G ALEXANDER EDMONDS,  
65 Lancaster Gate,  
London W2.  
July 24.

### Late issuing of invoices to blame for some slow payment

From Mr T. Bushell

Sir, There is no doubt that slow payment (Business Letters, July 24) contributes to a great many of the business failures, the number of which has dramatically risen over the last year, but in view of your correspondence on the subject the fault is not always caused by deliberate slow

payment. In a very high number of cases businesses still have to learn the proper method of issuing invoices.

Companies fail to issue their invoices on time, often delaying many days, and when they do issue them fail to make it clear when payment is required. Nor do many of them have a proper system to

educate and prompt their customers to pay.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY BUSHELL,  
General Manager,  
Receivable Management Division,  
Dun & Bradstreet Ltd,  
Holmers Farm Way,  
High Wycombe,  
Bucks, July 24.

### Acknowledging the importance of land values in economic theory

From Henry Law

Sir, David Brewster (*The Times*, July 25) should not be surprised that no-one in the Treasury really understands property.

This is inevitable, given the current state of economic theory, which ignores the land market; as an example of this neglect, none of the computerised models of the economy takes account of the behaviour of land values.

Land values are not trivial; a conservative estimate indicated that in 1985, the rental value of all the land in Britain amounted to 22 per cent of national income.

The consequences of ignoring the land market are very damaging. The availability of land is critical to the state of the economy and the difficulties at present being experienced by the construction industry can be attributed to an increase in land values such

that development has become unprofitable. Economists and economists shy away from tackling the problem because economic theory fails to account for the fact that land values do not fall to market-clearing prices.

Why the land market does not behave as markets in commodities is easily explained: land has no holding cost and land owners have every incentive to wait until the market recovers before releasing land for development.

In the meantime, this creates a land supply bottleneck. The problem could be resolved by a fiscal solution, but this cannot happen until it is acknowledged.

Yours,  
HENRY LAW,  
19 Queen's Gardens,  
Brighton,  
BN1 4AR.  
July 25.

### Less traditional methods should be tried if the government wants to crush inflation

From Mr Fraser Danbury

Sir, The Retail Price Index is headline news. It is the most publicised figure that the CSO produce. Employees negotiate their pay using it, and consumers set their expectations by it. Many of the factors which are widely believed to fuel inflation are in turn influenced themselves by the headline RPI figure. It may be possible, therefore, to change the core rate of inflation by manipulating the published headline rate.

Imagine an economy which is managing to sustain zero per cent inflation. Wage growth and demand are matched by increases in productivity. Suppose now, for no reason, the government and the media suddenly announce a headline inflation figure of ten per cent. What would be the subsequent economic reaction? On seeing the figure, employees and union representatives would immediately ask for an increase in pay in anticipation of a decline in their standard of

living. Without a similar increase in productivity, industry would be forced to increase factory gate prices to meet the increased costs. We have, therefore, increased the actual core inflation rate by simply overstating the published headline rate. If the published rate was to continuously overstate the true inflation rate then spiralling inflation could result.

It can also be shown that the same phenomenon can happen in reverse, but in the real world it takes longer for employees and consumers to lower their expectations of inflation than to raise them. Given that the time frame will be longer, I still believe that core inflation can be reduced by releasing a figure which is lower than the actual rate as long as this figure is truly believed by the public.

At present, unlike any other OECD country, the UK measures inflation taking into account the prevailing mortgage rate. The chancellor is attempting to reduce inflation

by the sole use of a financial tool which directly affects that same inflation rate. This has the obvious effect of overstating inflation during periods when it is rising, and understating inflation when it is falling. Following the above theory, the end result would be high volatility in the true or core inflation rate, a volatility which could in fact be avoided. The government has shown signs of wanting to calculate headline inflation excluding the mortgage effect, bringing the UK in line with the rest of Europe. In practice they are unlikely to do so before the next election as the present system will work in their favour if, as is widely expected, they can cut interest rates beforehand. If the supply of money to an economy is completely stopped, then it is beyond doubt that inflation cannot occur over a prolonged period. The current system allows the money supply to expand according to demand. Interest rates are used to keep demand and therefore supply,

within a given target range. The problem is that people's demand for money depends not just on the cost of money but also on their expected future need. If inflation is high (or is said to be higher than it actually is) then people anticipate a future need for money and the money supply target is broken. This explains the low level of savings observed during periods of high inflation. Another way to lower demand is to lower the expectation. One way to lower expectations is to make the public believe in a headline rate calculated in such a way that it shows as low a figure as possible.

The RPI is measured monthly, taking the ticket prices of goods and services. It takes no account of promotional activity such as buy one get one free, money off vouchers or zero per cent finance. The latter obviously represents a substantial discount in times of high interest rates. There is also the question of whether the goods being priced are themselves changing

ing. If they are, then their prices from month to month cannot be compared like for like. Consider the recent high level of food price inflation. The food we eat is changing, often being produced without preservatives, organically grown or ready made for use in microwave ovens. Is the price of the basic product rising so rapidly, or are we choosing to buy a different product? Whichever way you look at it, it seems that the real inflation rate is overstated.

There are many reasons why high inflation seems to be historically embedded in the British economy. I have outlined above what I believe to be one of them. If the government wishes to crush inflation for good then they should look beyond simply increasing the cost of credit and consider additional, less traditional and as yet untried methods.

Yours faithfully,  
FRASER DANBURY,  
Manager Money Markets,  
Abbey National,  
Baker Street, London.

## WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (¢)	Yearly chg (¢)	Daily chg (US\$)	Yearly chg (US\$)
The World (free)	671.2	-0.6	-20.4	-0.4	-10.1	-0.1	-9.1
EAFE (free)	128.0	-0.6	-20.6	-0.5	-10.3	-0.1	-9.3
Europe (free)	1181.5	-0.5	-24.2	-0.8	-15.1	0.1	-13.3
Nth America (free)	121.0	-0.5	-24.6	-0.9	-15.5	0.1	-13.8
Europe (free)	724.6	-0.6	-4.8	-0.5	-0.7	-0.1	8.8
Nth America (free)	155.6	-0.6	-4.8	-0.8	-1.1	-0.1	8.6
Asia (free)	468.9	-0.9	-12.9	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4
Nordic (free)	1545.2	-0.3	-0.7	-0.2	6.8	0.3	13.4
Pacific (free)	246.0	-0.2	-4.8	-0.1	12.3	0.4	19.5
Far East (free)	2575.8	-0.3	-35.1	-1.0	-23.8	0.2	-25.8
Australia (free)	3714.5	-0.3	-35.8	-1.0	-24.5	0.2	-26.6
Austria (free)	296.5	-0.6	-14.8	-0.8	-2.7	0.0	-2.4
Belgium (free)	1938.3	-1.3	30.4	-1.1	41.8	-0.7	48.0
Canada (free)	859.6	-0.8	-12.7	-0.7	-7.2	-0.3	-8.2
Denmark (free)	476.0	-0.7	-20.7	-0.2	-9.9	-0.2	-9.4
Finland (free)	1321.6	-0.2	0.4	0.0	6.8	0.4	14.7
France (free)	90.9	0.6	-21.2	0.7	-18.0	1.2	-9.9
Germany (free)	130.2	0.7	-12.6	0.8	-8.8	1.2	-9.2
Hong Kong (free)	729.5	-0.7	-9.8	-0.5	-3.8	-0.1	3.1
Italy (free)	912.8	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	8.1	0.0	13.7
Japan (free)	2382.2	-1.8	7.4	-1.2	22.1	-1.2	22.7
Netherlands (free)	362.5	-0.2	-6.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.4	7.5
New Zealand (free)	3882.1	-0.3	-37.1	-1.0	-25.9	0.3	-28.1
Norway (free)	833.2	-0.3	-11.9	-0.2	-4.3	0.3	0.7
Spain (free)	84.3	-1.4	-18.2	-1.0	-6.0	-0.8	-6.5
Sweden (free)	1523.4	0.8	13.5	0.9	22.0	1.4	29.7
Switzerland (free)	265.4	1.2	14.1	1.2	22.6	1.8	30.3
UK (free)	1928.8	-0.7	-3.3	-0.5	5.3	-0.1	10.5
USA (free)	222.9	-0.4	-5.8	0.0	-2.7	0.2	7.8
Switzerland (free)	1744.8	-0.8	-0.5	-0.7	7.7	-0.3	13.7
Switzerland (free)	255.8	-1.0	5.7	-0.8	14.4	-0.4	20.8
Switzerland (free)	891.7	-1.1	-2.5	-0.8	-1.4	-0.5	11.4
Switzerland (free)	134.1	-1.1	-3.9	-0.7	-2.9	-0.5	9.8
Switzerland (free)	687.5	-0.8	-4.6	-0.8	-4.6	-0.2	5.0
Switzerland (free)	424.4	-0.9	-12.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	0.4

(¢) Local currency.



# Fujitsu seals deal of the decade

## COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Myths are made to be destroyed, and the one about the Japanese paying high prices to secure cherished objectives has been demolished by the sale of four fifths of ICL to Fujitsu. Even when all the additional bits and pieces (dividends, property and so on) are taken into account, Fujitsu has bought a bargain. For £743 million, Fujitsu has acquired the means to hound Big Blue into second place in Europe, just as it has in Japan. ICL already occupies strong positions in its chosen markets, including that of third place in the worldwide supply of retail information systems.

By almost any conventional yardstick, Fujitsu has bought a bargain. While the price may represent more than twice book value, it amounts to only 57 per cent of last year's sales. The price represents only nine times earnings, less than one third of the value attributed to computer manufacturers in Japan. ICL is on a rising profits trend and is likely to reach profits of £200 million, or more, by the time it is refloated. Even before Fujitsu

came along as a buyer, ICL had set a turnover target of £4 billion by 1995.

Against that, the sale of 80 per cent of the company for £743 million appears curious at best, scandalous at worst. To seek explanation, it is necessary to go back a decade to the technology deal between ICL and Fujitsu, hatched even before ICL was acquired by STC. ICL computers are chock full of Fujitsu chips. While ICL provided the marketing and applications expertise, the technical specification of the equipment was formulated in Japan.

Without Fujitsu, ICL would not be much at all and Fujitsu took advantage, not unreasonably, of its commanding negotiating position.

That said, Fujitsu can do more for ICL and the British computer industry than STC ever could, and the promise to seek a stock market listing is a sweetener to the "Trojan horse" school of

xenophobia. It may rebound at the time of flotation, given that Fujitsu will be selling its shares for substantially less than the price at which it bought them.

## Point missed

Blank disbelief has greeted a Whitehall ruling on the running of local authority pension funds. Taken at its face value, the decision threatens to disrupt the investment of about £35 billion of funds, flies in the face of government policy on the contracting out of local authority services and threatens to deprive council officers of much-needed outside expertise in the complex business of dealing in inter-

national financial markets. The document raising temperatures among money managers emerged from the Department of the Environment last week. In the eyes of DoE officials it is no more than a reminder about the legal framework which determines the delegation of investment decisions by local authorities to specialist advisers. But because the practice of using outside managers on a discretionary basis has become widespread, the so-called reminder looks more like a proscription of standard practice.

The DoE ruling is certain to be challenged by bodies such as CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, as well as individual

councils and fund management groups. For in the wake of the Hammersmith and Fulham swaptions debacle, clear demarcation of responsibility has become a live issue in other branches of asset management.

In the event of a 1987-type market crash, lack of clear guidelines could prove expensive if the discretionary dealings of fund managers were to be challenged retrospectively.

Until the DoE missive, it had been commonly accepted that provided local authorities agreed strategy and monitored results, giving outside specialists the day to day role of executing the policies remained within the law. That judgment must now be suspended pending some urgent clarification of the ruling, which appears unambiguously to bar discretionary management.

The DoE letter says that it is proper for outsiders to give investment advice or carry out dealings in financial markets on

instructions. But, the DoE thunders, they may not make any decision on behalf of the authority on a day to day basis or otherwise.

"Such decisions may only be taken by the authority, a committee or sub-committee or an officer."

Surprisingly, the letter suggests that in order to comply with its own interpretation of the legal position only modest changes may be necessary. That will be true in the handful of funds that are largely self-administered.

But for the bulk of those authorities which use discretionary managers the DoE appears to suggest that advisers would in future need specific authority for hundreds of detailed transactions before they can be completed.

On the DoE's reading of the law, the only other certain route to compliance would be to make the borough treasurer directly responsible for carrying out investment policy.

The DoE appears to have missed the distinction between delegation of responsibility and delegation of management. Whitehall should think again.

## TEMPUS

## Cellnet tones up Securicor

HAVING entered the cellular telephone business almost by accident in 1984, Securicor, and Securicor Services, its 51 per cent-owned sister company, must be thanking their lucky stars — for the time being at least.

Securicor's 40 per cent stake in Cellnet accounted for almost every penny of the impressive 69.5 per cent growth in pre-tax profits to £30.925 million for the six months to end-March.

Of its other interests, only finance, investments and insurance showed any significant gains, and that mainly from investing the cash proceeds of the £59 million rights issue in April last year.

It looks certain that Securicor will not sell its Cellnet stake to majority shareholder British Telecom for the foreseeable future. The remaining doubt is over Cellnet's ability to win back the market share it has lost to Racal Telecom's Vodafone in the past six months. Cellnet had been winning new customers at a rate of about 7,000 a month in the spring, compared with Vodafone's 18,000.

Large sums spent on improving the service and an aggressive marketing campaign should help but the predicted slowdown in the growth of the market will partly undermine these efforts.

Excluding the non-cellular businesses, Cellnet is valued

at about a quarter to a third discount to Vodafone. But with pre-tax profits of between £62 million and £73.5 million pencilled in by the market for the full year, and £94 million to £106 million for the following year, the current 680p share price represents a multiple in the low teens 18 months on, a far cry from the 50 times earnings rating of a few years ago. With an ambitious European parcel network also in the offing, the shares must still be a good long-term hold.

## Molins

MOLINS shareholders should continue to support their board and say no on August 9 to Leucadia's attempts to gain control via the back door.

Leucadia wants to remove three Molins directors and replace them with six of its own to give it a boardroom majority. There is no guarantee that Leucadia, holder of 46.6 per cent of Molins but roundly defeated in May in a takeover attempt at 275p, will make a general or even a fair offer to other shareholders.

Meanwhile, Molins shareholders can draw much comfort from their interim report showing a 20 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 3p a share and an advance from £6.3 million to £7 million in pre-tax profit.

More important, the margins on manufacturing operations have improved from 7.8 per cent to 11.9 per cent, and there is every prospect of further margin improvement in the months ahead. The resignation of Michael Wright as managing director to take up an academic post, though untimely, should not stop the ship.

Net asset value, helped by a pension fund surplus now assessed at £85 million compared with £58.4 million at end June, equates to roughly 509p a share. With Molins traded at 300p, that is a further reason why Leucadia should not get away with its cheeky play. Another is that M&G, with its 18.8 per cent stake, still seems content to back the current Molins team.

Molins looks set for year-end profits of at least £15.5 million against £13.9 million, to put the shares on a prospective p/e of 8.1. Sit tight.

## Ashtead

THE Unlisted Securities Market will lose one of its best performers when Ashtead Group, voted USM company of the year in 1989, switches to the main list in October.

The question for shareholders is whether the plant hire company can continue to come up with the figures that have made it such a favourite,

particularly when market conditions in Britain are deteriorating. On the basis of yesterday's better-than-expected results, showing pre-tax profits 41 per cent higher at £7.82 million and earnings up 23.1 per cent to 28.44p a share, the answer is probably yes.

Ashtead's 49 A-Plant rental centres have built up market share steadily, to around 5 per cent, without sacrificing growth in margins, which have risen to 30 per cent at operating level and are among the highest in the industry.

The company is strong in the Midlands and the North and has only limited exposure to the South, where the construction industry downturn has been more severe. Each outlet is run as a separate profit centre and a profit sharing scheme acts as an incentive for staff in newly acquired branches.

Strong cash flow is funding annual capital expenditure of £12 million comfortably.

A move into the North Sea services sector, with the acquisition of Subsep earlier this year, looks canny and should reap early rewards. A move into plant hire in America has been less well received but expansion there is likely to be limited in the short term.

With pre-tax profits of £8.5 million within reach this year, the shares, at 245p, are on a multiple of around eight and are good value.

## French go on offensive in plasterboard battle



Sir Colin Corness: facing tough competition

LAFARGE Coppée's move to take a stake in Redland Plasterboard, the British-based joint venture, comes as the UK construction industry is going through tough times. Plasterboard in particular has been suffering from overcapacity and an associated price war. Price battles are also being waged in France and West Germany.

Lafarge, France's second largest plasterboard maker, may be looking to pick up the 49 per cent share in Redland Plasterboard held by CSR, the Australian building materials and resources group. It may also aim to take over as majority shareholder in its attempt to secure a foothold in Britain. Redland currently has 51 per cent of the loss-making joint venture which has a British plant and interests in continental Europe. Plasterboard represents only about 5 per cent of turnover for Redland, which is best known for its roof tiles and bricks, as well as being a big producer of building aggregates.

Redland Plasterboard, in only a year with a new plasterboard plant at Bristol, has proved a key influence in bringing a new harshness to competition in the British market. It secured direct entry to the French market this year by acquiring a plasterboard plant from Escogyp which exports into Belgium and West Germany. Redland Plasterboard also has a 45 per cent stake in Norjips which has plasterboard plants in the Netherlands and Norway.

Redland moved into plasterboard because of the long-term growth pattern in the market. Plasterboard is a dry, easily handled material used for internal house walls but also increasingly in commercial property. Decorative mouldings have also been a fast-expanding sector. But overcapacity in the British market is expected to be at its worst next year, with production capacity at 280 million square metres while demand is forecast to fall to 165 million square metres.

The Redland move was a facet of the battle across Europe for market share in constructional sectors. The main protagonists are the leading buildings materials

producers, including BPB Industries, of Britain, Europe's biggest plasterboard maker.

The Redland-CSR plant has seized an estimated 20 per cent of a British market in which for 20 years the only domestic maker was British Gypsum, part of BPB. Another 10 per cent of the market has gone to Knauf, West Germany's biggest plasterboard manufacturer, after it established a British plasterboard plant.

Potentially there are more pressures to come once construction growth returns.

Eternit TAC, a Belgian operation, laid plans several years ago to establish a British manufacturing plant. As an interim move it took over Essex-based importing and distribution facilities from Lafarge three years ago. At the time Lafarge was stretched by soaring French demand for plasterboard.

Redland, whose chairman is Sir Colin Corness, maintains it is still optimistic about plasterboard growth in the longer term, especially when infrastructural progress starts coming through in Eastern

Europe. The immediate situation is decidedly dusty. The additional plasterboard manufacturing capacity has come as the British construction industry, and especially house building, has suffered a downturn. Margins in the industry have been savaged.

Prices of plasterboard in the UK fell by at least 10 per cent in the past year with some grades seeing downturns of nearer 20 per cent.

BPB saw its pre-tax profits fall 38 per cent to £116.4 million in the year to end-March. Alan Turner, chairman and chief executive, agrees there is overcapacity but estimates this year's sales at 170 million square metres.

Part of the BPB response has been to cut its workforce by 15 per cent over about two years. BPB is the largest plasterboard producer in France and the second largest in West Germany. Prices of some plasterboard fell between 10 and 20 per cent in France last year while West Germany has seen a price decline of about 30 per cent since 1987.

Sales have increased in both countries and BPB believes a rise in German sales looks likely because of an expected jump in demand for rented rooms to house immigrants from East Germany.

BPB is also the largest single supplier in Italy, Sweden, Austria and the Netherlands and second largest in Norway.

One skirmish Redland and Knauf did not win was over the rights to 1 million tonnes a year of gypsum which will be a by-product of cleaning flue gases from the Drax power station in Yorkshire, Europe's largest coal-fired station.

BPB denied the group had paid a premium price to stop its rivals from finding an alternative to imported supplies of gypsum, a main plasterboard ingredient.

If the problems of plasterboard are writ large in BPB's figures they also look likely to show up for Redland. Interims are due in September. Its partner CSR has already announced provisions to cover losses arising from the joint venture.

Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

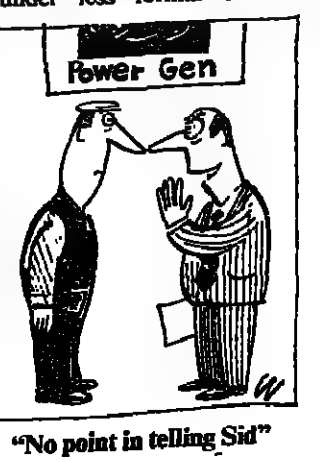
### On board for royal profit

RACEHORSE-owning Lord Matthews, aged 70, chief executive and deputy chairman of Trafalgar House until his retirement five years ago, continues to take a paternal interest in his old firm. As he climbed aboard the QE2 in the Solent for the finale of its round-Britain tour, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its Cunard subsidiary, Lord Matthews was greeted by chairman Sir Nigel Brookes, 14 years his junior. Brookes, one of the more successful recipients of the *Guardian's* Young Businessman of the Year Award, in 1978, was hosting a champagne luncheon for 400 — including Sir Martin Jacobson of Barclays, Michael Pickard of Sears, Sir Colin Marshall of British Airways and David Hardy, ex-Globe — with star billing going to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Clearly still concerned about the balance sheet, Matthews was overheard saying to Brookes: "I hope you're making a profit out of all this." "We are," a delighted Brookes replied. The American widows who largely filled every berth had apparently paid a 20 per cent premium for the cruise in the hope of catching a glimpse of the Queen. In accordance with instructions from Buckingham Palace that any gift should be "glass, of no monetary value, but completely unique," Brookes, a renowned silversmith, gave the

Queen a glass medallion, partially designed by him, engraved with the QE2 on one side and HMV Britannia on the other. And he sold out of gold, silver and bronze replicas, with the gold ones retailing at £1,250 a piece. Meanwhile, surveying the scene, and surmising about the ship as if he owned it, was P&O chairman Sir Jeffrey Sterling, fuelling speculation of a takeover bid for Trafalgar.

SIGN outside the Seahorse public house, adjacent to St Paul's Cathedral, which is currently besieged by American and Japanese tourists: "No, Sir Christopher Wren does not drink here."

Citibank Marin-aid CLIENTS of Citibank who have enjoyed being fed and watered in the American bank's London dining rooms can repeat the experience under less formal circum-



"No point in telling Sid"

stances. Eric Marin, the chief behind a thousand Citibank deals, has taken charge in the kitchens at one of the latest additions to London's culinary scene, Le Chausson, at Battersea's Ransomes Dock. The restaurant venture is being backed by what is described as "a high-quality syndicate" of City bankers. Never one to miss a good investment, Brian Woolley, Citibank's head of capital markets, is part of the consortium. The 45-seat restaurant, which opened last week, is, Woolley assures me, "very upmarket", and is aiming for the fringes of Michelin star territory. But punters hoping to be entertained by the sight of investing bankers practicing their silver service skills will be disappointed. Their role will be purely non-executive, insists Woolley. "Unless we're very short staffed!"

AMERICA'S Internal Revenue Service recently received a casket containing the ashes of a businessman who had died in Oregon. With it came a cryptic note: "You have hounded me all my life — now you have it all."

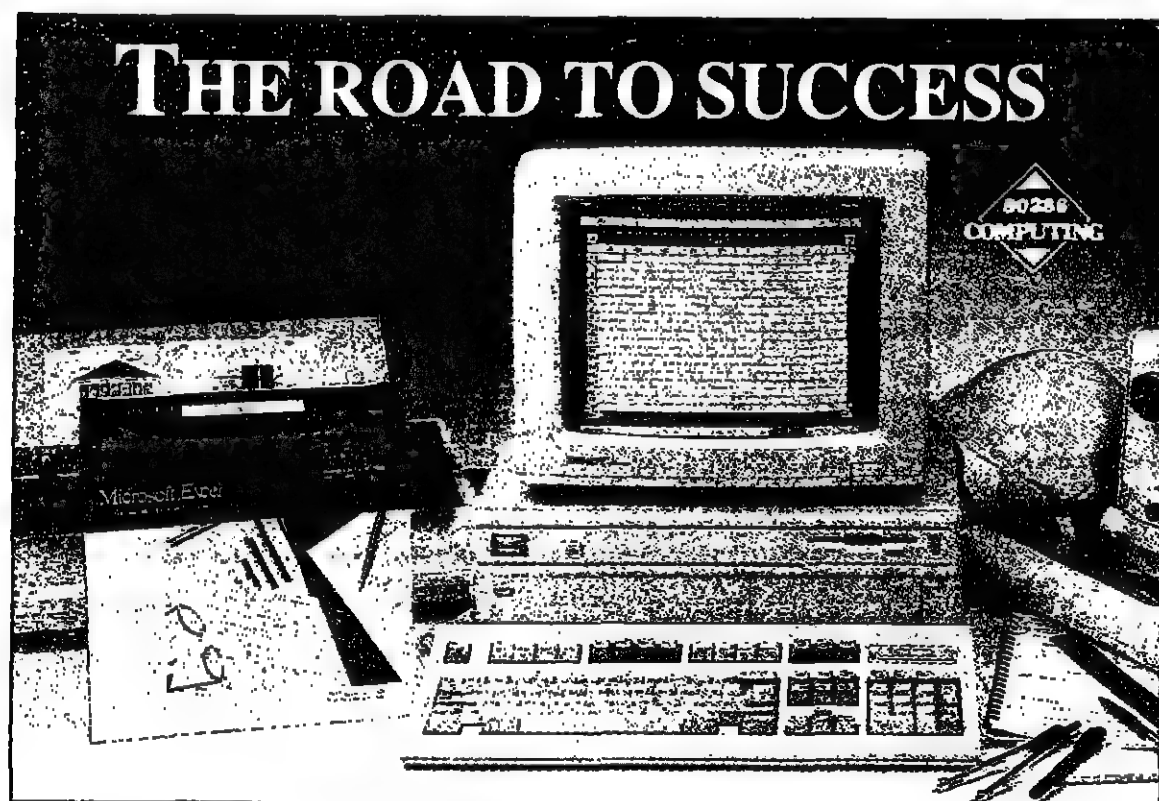
No credit at Coutts ABOUT 50 customers of top people's bank Coutts, the private bank owned, at arms length, by National Westminster, could find themselves strapped for cash over the next couple of days. And if they insert their cash cards into an automatic teller, they could face the embarrassment of having it chewed up by the

machine. For a clerk at the bank's City office, in Lombard Street, who wrongly typed an instruction into a computer, has inadvertently cancelled the cashpoint cards of 50 or so customers, and Coutts says it will take a few days before they receive a replacement. "We were able to get in touch with about 30 customers on the telephone," says Henry Hopper, head of business development. "Most of them were a little bemused."

### Secret service

The reputation for secrecy built up over the years by Bain & Co, the management consultant, knows no bounds. But Ralph Willard, managing director of Bain International, blanching somewhat when a potential client asked about its reputation as "the KGB of consulting firms". For the questioner was a high-ranking Soviet official, and the location Moscow. "We prefer to think of ourselves as the CIA of consulting firms," Willard shot back nervously. The official scowled. "CIA, CIA?" He paused, and then broke into a broad smile. "Good! We respect the CIA." Bain now has a Moscow office and a joint venture with LINK, a Soviet consultancy set up by Abel Aganbeyan, former economic counsellor to Mikhail Gorbachev, serving Western corporations in their dealings with the Soviet Union. Russian accents will soon be heard in Bain's London office as Soviet executives are trained here.

Carol Leonard



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## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share or lots
1	Decca (R&N)	Building, Roads	1
2	Nu-Smiff	Industrial L-R	1
3	Hollis	Drugs, Stores	1
4	Macfarlane	Industrial L-R	1
5	Laporte (as)	Chemicals, Plastics	1
6	Unigate (as)	Foods	1
7	Carton Com	Leisure	1
8	Bedevole	Industrial A-D	1
9	Stamps & Fisher	Building, Roads	1
10	Brown Shipley	Banking, Finance	1
11	Sci & New (as)	Business	1
12	Claydon	Industrial A-D	1
13	AAH	Industrial A-D	1
14	Multison Elect	Electricals	1
15	Martins Thompson	Breweries	1
16	Nurdin & Placock	Foods	1
17	Electrocomponents	Electricals	1
18	Geni SA	Drugs, Stores	1
19	Logica	Electricals	1
20	Bridon	Industrial A-D	1
21	Hall Eng	Industrial E-K	1
22	BPP	Newspapers, Pub	1
23	ENIAP	Newspapers, Pub	1
24	Simon Eng	Industrial S-Z	1
25	Guinness (as)	Breweries	1
26	Blue Circle (as)	Building, Roads	1
27	AIN	Industrial A-D	1
28	Securam Serv	Industrial S-Z	1
29	Johnstone Press	Newspapers, Pub	1
30	McAlpine (Alfred)	Building, Roads	1
31	Nestor-BNA	Industrial L-R	1
32	Warburg SG	Banking, Finance	1
33	Freemantle Hotels	Hotels, Caterers	1
34	Lucas (as)	Motor, Aircraft	1
35	Honda Motor	Motor, Aircraft	1
36	Whitbread 'A' (as)	Breweries	1
37	Macrofilm Repro	Electricals	1
38	Crosby James	Building, Roads	1
39	Core Leisure	Leisure	1
40	Be System	Industrial A-D	1
41	Cullum	Foods	1
42	Computer People	Electricals	1
43	Allied-Lyons (as)	Breweries	1
44	Johnson Cleaners	Industrial E-K	1

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Two winners shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr John Cotgrove, of Little Wakering, near Southend on Sea, Essex, and Mrs Marjory Lyell, of Forfar, Scotland, each received £1,000.

### BRITISH FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Mid	Price	Change	%	1989	High	Low	Mid	Price	Change	%
<b>SHORTS (Under Five Years)</b>													
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## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued on next page

CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION  
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MANAGEMENT SELECTION



# Paralegals muster a concerted attack on costs and time

In Britain there is as yet no established definition of a paralegal. In America, the courts and the legal profession have agreed that the use of paralegals, if properly supervised and directed, can be cost effective and that it is reasonable to recognise and encourage a contribution to the legal system.

The use of paralegals or legal assistants in America has significantly increased in recent years. They have become an essential element of services provided by many law offices, providing valuable assistance, particularly in research and preparing documents under a lawyer's supervision.

An attempted definition of a paralegal might be: "A legal assistant... qualified by education, training or work experience who is employed by a law office, a lawyer, a government agency or other entity in a capacity or function which involves the performance under supervision of specifically delegated legal work which requires a sufficient knowledge of legal concepts, and with-

**LEGAL BRIEF**

**Alan Grieve defines the role of legal assistants and suggests how they could ease the workload in a busy office**

out such an assistant the lawyer would perform the work."

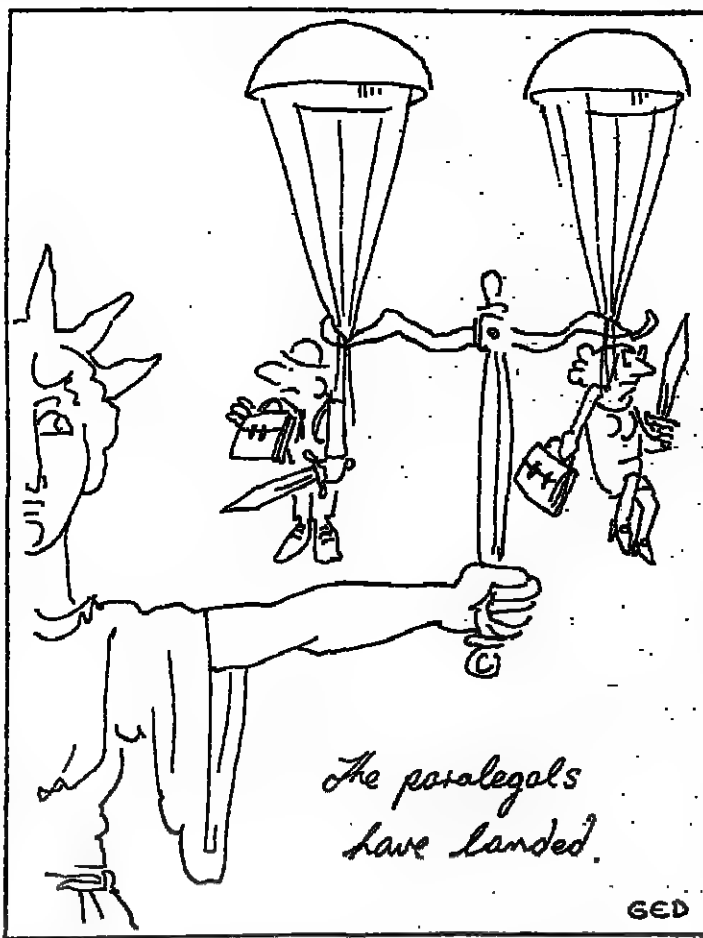
In America the estimated ratio of attorneys to paralegals is 5 or 6 to 1. This means that a firm of 100 lawyers might employ up to 20 paralegals.

A further factor which has increased the interest and development of paralegals has been

the change of role of the secretary in a legal practice. Previously, a senior or personal secretary saw her work as a lifetime commitment, and would develop considerable knowledge of the legal practice.

The development of technology, and in particular word processors, the copying machine and other office equipment, has resulted in a considerable change in the basic secretarial functions so that increased secretarial productivity can be achieved. There has also been the pooling of secretarial services, and it is increasingly unusual to justify the expense of a secretary for an individual lawyer. Paralegals have filled the vacuum.

The second and probably most compelling force driving the rise of paralegals has been the continuous increase of legal costs and the hourly rates charged by lawyers in Britain. One accepted way to hold down the costs revealed by a timesheet is to try and de-skill (or "unbundle") the services being provided. For example, drafting a simple document or indexing



documents in a heavy litigation case can be done by a paralegal.

The development of interest in paralegal employment is a reaction to the present market forces, and what has taken place in America is beginning to take place here.

A paralegal can acquire or achieve the following results:

- 1 Reduce secretarial requirements and pressures.
- 2 Free the fee-earning lawyer from doing work billable at a comparatively low effective hourly rate.

'One accepted way to hold down the costs revealed by a lawyer's timesheet, is to try and de-skill or "unbundle" the services that are being provided by the firm'

3 Free the lawyer from no-charge work.

The key to paralegal profitability is the ability of the paralegal to take on work which lawyers would otherwise perform at an effective hourly rate lower than the lawyer's top charging rate, and the ability, conversely, for the lawyer to convert these "released" hours into optimal charge-out rates.

The areas where it will become increasingly common for paralegals to be employed include:

- Probate and estate work and planning.
- Tax returns and computations.
- Enforcing judgments and specialist enforcement, such as secured claims under leases.
- Filing documents with courts and agencies.
- Preparing simple wills.
- Establishing a business entity.
- Drafting memoranda, briefs, pleadings and interrogatories.
- Editing legal publications and digesting other published work.

• Supervising the organisation of documents in complex litigation.

• Undertaking legal and factual research.

The skills required of a paralegal would include abilities and training in research, writing, interviewing, presentation, investigation and tracking work in the office.

The advantages of employing paralegals will show savings of expense, time and energy and should contribute to the improvement of quality and profitability.

It seems, regardless of the firm's size or the employing agency, that there is a uniform response on the educational requirements and benefits of paralegals. Even though one firm may employ paralegals with a different emphasis to another firm, the general consensus is that paralegals provide benefits to the firm.

Certainly larger and more specialised firms will prefer more education, whereas a smaller firm may look for a more practical approach to the office workload. It is worth underlining the view that the successful employment of a paralegal will require a clear definition of the appointment, a realistic approach to such employment by giving sufficient office space, dictation equipment, secretarial and clerical assistance, and to project goals or objectives in the terms of work, product and increased income.

The paralegal should feel, and must be, a full member of the team, so that the benefits be maximised.

• The author is a member of Legal Resources, recruitment specialists.

## Law Report July 31 1990 House of Lords

### Removal of child did not contravene provisions of abduction convention

**In re J (a Minor) (Abduction: Custody Rights)**  
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Jauncey of Tullicettle

[Speeches July 26]

Where by the domestic law of the country of a child's birth the mother had the infant's sole custody and guardianship, then her removal of the infant from that country before a court order was made, and retention starting prior to that order, were not wrongful within article 3 of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction signed at The Hague on October 25, 1980 set out in Schedule 1 to the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985.

Habitual residence of an infant aged two, in the sole lawful custody of the mother, would necessarily be the same as hers. Since a person could cease to be habitually resident in a country

in a single day if he or she left it with a settled intention not to return to it, the infant leaving with the mother in such circumstances would cease to be habitually resident in the country he left even if he was so resident before leaving.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by the father of an infant J from an order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Staughton and Sir Roger Ormrod) (*sub nom C v S*, *The Times* May 30, 1990) 2 All ER 449 who had dismissed an appeal by the father from an order of Mr Justice Douglas Brown who had refused to make an order under the 1985 Act directing that J, who was brought here by his mother without the father's knowledge, be returned to Western Australia.

Mr Ian Karsten, QC and Lord Meston for the father; Mr John

Samuels, QC and Miss Susan Cooper for the mother.

LORD BRANDON said that the father and the mother of the infant, J, were born in England and were citizens of the United Kingdom. In 1969 the father and in 1978 the mother went to live and work in Australia. They met there and in May 1987 began living together. They did not marry then or later.

On December 6, 1987, J was born. Both the mother and the father were registered his parents. The relationship between the mother and the father, following the birth of J, was not a harmonious one. There were separations and reconciliations. In May 1989 they were reconciled and the mother went back to live with the father taking J with her.

Early in 1990 the mother made a decision to leave the father and return to England

with J and to live there. In March she made travel arrangements for herself and J and succeeded, by various subterfuges, in concealing her intention from the father. On March 21 she flew with J to England arriving on March 22. It was then, and remained ever since, the mother's settled intention not to return to Australia but to make a long-term home for herself and J in England.

On March 26 the father applied to the Supreme Court of Western Australia for the custody of J and other relief. That application was transferred to the Family Court and on April 12 Mr Justice Anderson made an order, after hearing the application *ex parte*, giving the father sole guardianship and custody of J.

He also gave directions for the service of the order on the mother in England. Finally by an amendment dated April 26 the judge made a declaration

that the removal of J from Australia by the mother was wrongful.

Pursuant to the convention the Australian authorities requested the authorities in the United Kingdom for the return of J and solicitors acting for the father made an application to that end in the Family Division of the High Court.

On April 30 Mr Justice Douglas Brown decided that, on the special facts of the case, the mother had not been guilty of a wrongful removal or of a wrongful retention, and (b) at the time of removal or retention those rights were actually exercised, either jointly or alone, or would have been so exercised but for the removal or retention.

The crucial feature of the instant case was that the mother was not married to the father, either when J was born or at any time afterwards. In that situation section 35 of the Family Court Act 1975-1979, as added by section 23 of the Family Court Act Amend-

ment and Acts Repeal Act 1979, provided that, subject to any order made under the Act, the custody and guardianship of the child.

Article 3 of the convention provided: "The removal or the retention of a child is to be considered wrongful where (a) it is in breach of custody or guardianship of a person, or institution or any other body, either jointly or alone, under the law of the state in which the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal or retention; and (b) at the time of removal or retention those rights were actually exercised, either jointly or alone, or would have been so exercised but for the removal or retention."

The question then arose whether the removal of J from Australia to England by the mother was wrongful within the meaning of article 3 of the convention. Having regard to the terms of the article the question could only be answered if it was in breach of rights of custody attributed to, that is, possessed by, the father at the time when it took place.

Since section 35 of the 1975-1979 Act of Western Australia gave the mother alone the custody and guardianship of J, and no order of a court to the contrary had been obtained by the father before the removal took place, the father had no custody rights relating to J of which the removal of J by the mother could be a breach.

The second question was whether the retention of J in England by the mother following his removal was wrongful within article 3. Having regard to the terms of the article such retention could only be wrongful if, immediately before it took place, it was in breach of rights of custody possessed by the father.

In order to decide that question it was necessary to take account of the sequence in time of the relevant events. The first relevant event was the retention of J by the mother after his arrival in England. That began on March 22, and continued thereafter.

The second relevant event was the order of Mr Justice Anderson giving to the father the first time guardianship and custody of J. That order was made on April 12, three weeks after the mother's retention of J began. The result was that it was not until April 12, or such later date as that on which the order was made known to the mother, that her retention of J in England first became in breach of the rights of custody newly conferred on the father by Mr Justice Anderson.

The question then arose whether, immediately before that breach occurred, J was habitually resident in Western Australia within the meaning of article 3. It was not in dispute that, immediately before his removal, J was habitually resident in Western Australia.

In considering that issue it was helpful to deal first with a number of preliminary points. First, the expression "habitually resident", as used in article 3, was nowhere defined. It followed that the expression was not to be treated as a term of art with some special meaning, but was rather to be understood according to the ordinary and natural meaning of the words which it contained.

Second, the question whether a person was or was not habitually resident in a specified country was a question of fact to be decided by reference to all the circumstances of any particular case.

Third, there was a significant difference between a person ceasing to be habitually resident in country A, and his subsequently becoming habitually resident in country B.

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A person might cease to be habitually resident in country A, in a single day if he or she left it with a settled intention not to return to it but to take up long-term residence in country B instead.

Such a person could not, however, become habitually resident in country B in a single day. An appreciable period of time and a settled intention would be necessary to enable him or her to become so.

Fourth, where a child of J's age was in the sole lawful custody of the mother, his habitual residence would necessarily be the same as hers.

In the light of those points the question was: not whether, immediately before the removal of J, the mother was habitually resident in Western Australia, but whether, immediately before the removal of J, the mother was habitually resident in Western Australia.

It was rather whether immediately before that time J had already acquired a habitual residence in Western Australia. To that second question, on the special facts of the instant case, only an affirmative answer could sensibly be given.

The mother had left Western Australia, with a settled intention that neither she nor J should continue to be habitually resident there. It followed that, when the removal of J in England by the mother began, both she and J had ceased to be habitually resident in Western Australia.

The consequence was that the continued retention of J in England by the mother was never at any time a wrongful retention within article 3.

Lord Bridge, Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver and Lord Jauncey agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; for the mother: Alfred Newton & Co, Stockport.

The court had given consideration to the matter of the alleged implied term and heard expert evidence on the point.

His Lordship concluded that in the particular case, and, probably in respect of most cases involving magazines, it was not right to say the existence of such a usage and custom had been established on the balance of probabilities.

Publishers could always ask for an express indemnity from book publishers plainly did. The contract between the defendant and the publisher of the book itself did contain such an indemnity.

The plaintiffs had also claimed under the Civil Liability (Contribution) Act 1978. However, it seemed to His Lordship that section (1) of that Act was directed to the payment of damages.

It was argued for the defendant that the section was concerned solely with the payment of damages, and, as none had been paid in the instant case, the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover.

His Lordship regarded that interpretation as correct and accordingly the plaintiff failed on that ground also.

Solicitors: Russell Jones & Walker, Biddie & Co.

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Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; for the mother: Alfred Newton & Co, Stockport.

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# Real winners in merger wars

Firms may say they are doing well but, for the first time, a new report shows exactly how much advisory business each is doing on takeovers.

Edward Fennell examines the figures, and names the leaders and the losers this time round

When six months ago *Acquisitions Monthly* published its second-half figures for 1989 on the advisory activities of law firms engaged in public takeovers, two firms showed outstanding results. Simmons & Simmons and S.J. Berwin had both done exceptionally well out of the bid for BAT Industries by Sir James Goldsmith's Hovlake enterprise and were in the top five.

Now, alas, their moment of glory is over. As the figures in the tables below show, the flattening-out of the mergers and acquisitions (M & A) market has restored a sense of order. S.J. Berwin is back at No 19 among the legal advisers to companies, while Simmons & Simmons has done well to drop only to No 11.

No doubt the firms' taste of the high life, albeit brief, was sweet.

As the passion for league tables continues, *Acquisitions Monthly* is to be congratulated for coming up with a new formula. In addition to its standard results (table 2 - legal advisers to companies involved in public takeovers), it has produced, for the first time, figures on advisory activities to banks (table

3). By putting together tables 2 and 3, it is possible to get a better perspective than ever before on the real pecking order in the M & A field (table 1).

Approximately level pegging at the top of the combined tables are Slaughter & May and Freshfields. But while Slaughter & May has proved to be outstanding in its role as adviser to the financiers, it is Freshfields which has come out almost top for its advice to companies. This complementary picture of the two firms provides an insight to their respective strengths.

What the figures also show is that six months is a long time in the City. In the comparable period last year, the top ten firms handled 109 UK public takeovers with a total value of £32.55 billion. The figure has dropped by two-thirds to just under £10 billion, and the lawyers are also being hit by the growing practice of using in-house legal expertise in the drive to hone down the number of ancillary lawyers. In short, as money gets tight, companies and banks alike want to make sure that they are using their lawyer cost effectively.

Joanna Gant, deputy editor of *Acquisitions Monthly*, says that part of the motive for publishing the



Moving into the top slot: Tony Kay (left), managing partner Norton Rose, with the M5 Group heads

tables is to give clearer information on exactly how well individual firms are doing.

"When you speak to any firm of solicitors, they always tell you how busy they are," she says. "And if they do not appear in a league table, they will usually maintain that it is because they are very occupied elsewhere."

"By producing our figures in this way, the City can see for the first time exactly how firms rate, so far as both aspects of public takeovers are concerned."

Among a string of revelations thrown up by the tables, Ms Gant comments particularly on how far down the league Clifford Chance comes, especially in the context of advice to the banks. She also

highlights the fact that whereas Herbert Smith, Linklaters and Freshfields as a trio used to dominate the league, only Freshfields still commands a leading spot.

As with all statistics, some rogue elements always attract attention. This time it is the performance of Blyth Dutton, a relatively small firm, that merits attention. Having never before made it into the top 20, Blyth Dutton owes its appearance this time to work with VG Instruments on its sale to Fisons and Midsummer Leisure on its takeover of European Leisure. Will the firm be able to maintain its presence into the next set of figures?

Norton Rose has done well to move into the top slot of the companies table because of the size

of its deals (in terms of numbers of deals, it would rate sixth). At a time when some have questioned the firm's long-term direction now that it is involved with the M5 group, its performance is an adequate rebuttal of the sceptics' doubts.

Probably the most impressive figure of all is the complete dominance of the financial advice table by Slaughter and May. In terms of both number and value of deals, it is streets ahead of its nearest rival. Though this may reflect deep conservatism on the part of the bankers, there is no denying that Slaughter has mastered the art of maintaining the confidence of its clients. Trying to shift the firm from its pre-eminent position will be no easy task.

TABLE 1  
Legal advisers acting for financial adviser or company in UK public takeovers  
Jan-Jun 1990, ranked by value of transactions

Legal Adviser	No of deals	Value £m
1 Slaughter and May	21	1,925
2 Freshfields	22	1,853
3 Norton Rose	10	1,648
4 Allen & Overy	16	1,476
5 Linklaters & Paines	16	1,404
6 Ashurst Morris Crisp	14	1,371
7 Herbert Smith	14	1,056
8 Clifford Chance	11	699
9 Lovell White Durrant	8	625
10 Nabarro Nathanson	5	588
11 Cameron Markby Hewitt	3	382
12 Simmons & Simmons	2	356
13 Blyth Dutton	2	347
14 Macfarlanes	4	270
15 Richards Butler	2	219
16 Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens	2	184
17 McKenna & Co	2	176
18 Gouldens	2	176
19 Travers Smith Braithwaite	7	171
20 Timmus Sainer & Webb	3	124

This table is based on completed and failed takeover bids for UK public companies, and includes only those advisers involved in two or more transactions

TABLE 2  
Legal advisers to companies involved in UK public takeovers  
Jan-Jun 1990, ranked by value of transactions

Legal Adviser	No of deals	Value £m
1 Norton Rose (4**)	8	1,490
2 Allen & Overy (8)	14	1,399
3 Freshfields (1)	14	1,398
4 Linklaters & Paines (2)	13	1,290
5 Slaughter & May (5)	9	1,071
6 Herbert Smith (3)	12	651
7 Ashurst Morris Crisp (7)	9	788
8 Clifford Chance (6)	9	563
9 Nabarro Nathanson (9)	5	588
10 Blyth Dutton (-)	2	347
11 Simmons & Simmons (20)	7	343
12 Richards Butler (-)	7	312
13 Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens (-)	2	184
14 Lovell White Durrant (12)	6	164
15 McKenna & Co (15)	1	163
16 Gouldens (-)	1	163
17 Travers Smith Braithwaite (-)	6	160
18 Timmus Sainer & Webb (14)	3	124
19 S J Berwin (19)	2	110
20 Turner Kenneth Brown (-)	1	106

\*\*January-June 1989 ranking.  
This table is based on completed and failed takeover bids for UK public companies

TABLE 3  
Legal advisers to financial advisers\* involved in UK public takeovers  
Jan-Jun 1990, ranked by value of transactions

Legal Adviser	No of deals	Value £m
1 Slaughter and May	12	854
2 Ashurst Morris Crisp	5	583
3 Lovell White Durrant	1	461
4 Freshfields	8	455
5 Cameron Markby Hewitt	1	299
6 Herbert Smith	2	205
7 Macfarlanes	1	172
8 Norton Rose	2	158
9 Linklaters & Paines	3	114
10 Theodoros Goddard	1	79
11 Barwin Leighton	1	75
12 Allen & Overy	1	77
13 Clifford Chance	2	36
14 Gouldens	1	13
15 McKenna & Co	1	13
16 Simmons & Simmons	1	13
17 Walker Martineau	1	12
18 Travers Smith Braithwaite	1	11
19 Nicholson, Graham & Jones	1	4
20 Penningtons	1	3

\*"Financial Adviser" constitutes the lead merchant or investment bank engaged by a UK public company to advise on the offer for, or defence of, a company. This league does not include legal advisers to lending banks involved on an offer

## INNS AND OUTS

As domestic conveyancing and legal aid work become less profitable, provincial firms are learning the hard way that commercial and legal aid work are like oil and water. They do not mix, and attempts to overcome that can end in division. Take Chichester's biggest firm, Thomas Eggar Verrall Bowles, which has just lost the head of its company commercial department, Sally Norcross Webb. In September, she will start a new firm with Christopher Hill, until recently finance partner and head of the company commercial department at Chichester's second-biggest firm, Rapers. Ms Norcross Webb, who spent four years at Slaughter and May before joining Thomas Eggar four years ago, is convinced her departure is evidence of a growing trend in the South. The difficulty is well-documented in the United States, where law firms have lost profitable partners who see their departments used to subsidise less-profitable ones. Thomas Eggar and Rapers will continue to practise in the commercial area, but more firms will be faced with the dilemma of holding together commercial and general common-law practices. On the other hand, setting up a commercial law boutique in a shaky market is a brave venture.

Many lawyers hope the Lord Chancellor's department will recommend to the government a reform of the law on intestacy. The Law Commission has recently examined the law and proposed important changes. A draft Distribution of Estates Bill attached to the commission's report provides that on intestacy a surviving husband or wife should be entitled to the whole of the estate, rather than the proportion allowed at present. For some time, the commission has been concerned that where there is no will, the "statutory legacy" is often insufficient even to buy the matrimonial home from the estate for the benefit of the surviving spouse. The Bill would also upgrade the position of co-habitees of at least two years' standing. At present, they are no better off than other relatives of the deceased. The commission recommends they become a separate category of applicant but has not gone as far as the Scottish Law Commission, which may give co-habitees automatic intestacy rights. The Law Commission has been criticised for leaving too much to discretionary provisions under the Inheritance Act, rather than working out fundamental principles of reform.

The Confederation of British Industry is worried about the recent European Court ruling in the case of Barber v Guardian Royal Exchange. The court held that Mr Barber, who was made redundant at the age of 52, was entitled to an immediate early retirement pension, contrary to the accepted norm in the UK. The court based the decision on the fact that a woman made redundant at that age would have been entitled, because of the earlier retirement age for women, and on its finding that pensions are pay and therefore subject to the law on equal treatment. The CBI has a problem. It needs a rapid clarification of whether the decision applies retrospectively. If so, it could cost industry £30 billion to comply. The CBI is not party to the case, and can make submission to the European Court only if the Court of Appeal refers the case back to Luxembourg, unless its lawyers can find another way.

The five-partner Edinburgh firm of Valerie McCombie & Hunter has become the first law firm in Scotland to incorporate itself. Scottish firms have been able to incorporate for the past three years, but until now none had taken the plunge. The new entity has a suitably corporate name, VMH International Ltd. Explains partner, or is it now director, Wilson Hunter: "In our opinion, the Japanese and others in the Far East may be less familiar with Scottish partnership set-up than the limited company. We also felt that being an incorporated practice offered us more flexibility and provided a better vehicle for promoting our services in the international market place." One may be forgiven for suspecting that the internal workings of a law firm are of little concern to a Japanese client, but the advantages of incorporation in terms of organising and financing are well-documented.

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مكتبة الأصيل



## HORIZONS

حكايات الأصيل

# The shadow that could become your next step to success

**W**hen the Student Industrial Society (SIS) invited employers to take part in a national scheme to provide for 250 students what have become known as work-shadowing opportunities, it received only six replies.

The feeble response from business may have been caused by apathy, an unease about having outsiders looking over their shoulder and — perish the thought — asking questions or the belief that there was nothing in it for them. However, organisations that have been involved in work-shadowing find that the benefits are two-way and that the shadowed can learn as much as the shadower.

Politicians who offer to "host" shadowing schemes may be vulnerable to suggestions that their involvement is a stunt aimed at publicity and catching young voters, but for Michelle Rodriguez, a pupil at Bishop Thomas Grant School in Streatham, south London, it has been a good chance for her to get an insight into her planned career. Michelle has been interested in politics since she was 11 and wrote to her local MP to suggest a shadowing session.

Her MP is Angela Rumbold, the former education minister and

**A new scheme to introduce young people to careers is taking off slowly. Widget Finn sets out to give it a boost**

chairman of the ministerial group on women's issues, who has already been involved in shadowing schemes with schools. Mrs Rumbold has found that having a shadow helps her to think about her job in a different light and to examine her time management. She encourages shadowing, whether in industry or the professions, as a valuable experience for young people to see the world of work.

Michelle discovered that politicians work long hours and have piles of paperwork, but was inspired by the shadowing experience to pursue her ambition to be a politician. She thinks more MPs should be willing to take student work-shadows.

"MPs are under-valued," she

says. "When you see their day-to-day life, you realise that it is not all lunches and opening hospitals. They earn their money."

Careful planning is essential for both sides to get the best out of a work-shadowing scheme. That is one of the lessons Peter Morley and his staff at the National Retail Training Council (NRTC) learned when Phuong Dang, a Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC) student from West London College, joined them for three weeks.

Mr Morley says: "It is no good saying 'Just follow me around and see what I do'; that is a complete waste of time. Our initial briefing was important to ensure that Phuong was happy with the programme that we had prepared for her. We had to think about what we were doing and how it would fit her needs because we wanted to make her stay as beneficial as possible."

"It was important to treat her like any other member of staff so that she would get a feel for what working in a busy office is like."

Phuong Dang had a useful insight into the pressures of business and Mr Morley, as chairman of a national training council that looks after 2.5 million people and 345,000 shops, wel-

## BEAUMONT

comed the chance to be involved in an innovative scheme. The lessons learned from the NRTC's shadowing experiment will be passed on and used in the retail industry.

The Teacher Placement Service was set up as part of the Department of Trade and Industry's Education and Enterprise Initiative to provide teachers with a personal experience in the world of business. Some placements, such as Marie Symons's two-week visit to the Rover Group at Longbridge, near Birmingham, will benefit her pupils directly. She plans to develop a work-related curriculum. Her involvement in a joint project for materials and the training of ethnic minority groups will help her host organisation.

Other placements have a less specialised benefit for the school curriculum. It is unlikely that many of Angela Dunn's pupils at the Blackless School for Girls, Bexley in south London, have ambitions to be weather forecasters. However, the material she gathered on climatology and weather from her week at the Meteorological Office will give a practical slant to geography and physics lessons.

The lessons to be learned through work-shadowing are not just at classroom level. David Cracknell, the assistant chief education officer for East Sussex, is involved mainly in long-term planning. His secondment to the Alliance and Leicester Building Society was designed to give him

an insight into the business that he was to visit, listing the issues he wanted to cover and the questions to be answered.

He says: "I learned a lot about setting priorities and the ways in which strategic planning can be undertaken within a large organisation. The Alliance and Leicester invests heavily in business analysis, which local authorities do not yet do to the same extent. I was impressed by the way they communicate with their staff and I will be using some of their ideas in our department."

The building society is pleased with the experiment in high-level shadowing and there are plans for an A & L manager to make a reciprocal visit.

British Telecom was among the

handful of organisations responding to the Student Industrial Society's invitation. BT finds that a shadowing scheme has valuable spin-offs for the employer by helping students make informed career decisions. If they like the work and the organisation, they will probably apply to that particular employer, but if they find the work unsuitable, there will not be a square peg applying for a place in a round hole.

Harvey Nash, BT's graduate-recruitment manager, supports work-shadowing. "It is a neat, friendly way to help bridge the gap between education and the world of work," he says. "We are encouraging the SIS to re-launch the scheme next year and BT will be a very willing participant."



071-481 1066

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

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AUTHORITY

### Director of Personnel and Training

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Over 5,000 staff contribute to the effective operation of York Health Authority, each person being a vital piece of the jigsaw which forms the complete picture of Health Authority services across the community.

The structure of this large NHS Provider Unit is settled for the future and, as Director, you will report to the Chief Executive/District General Manager.

Through this recently restructured workforce, we have achieved a reputation for the quality of our management systems. Our approach to organisation development is value-driven and person-centred, which enables us to achieve the best in patient care. We aim to set a new standard within the NHS for looking after the needs of staff and developing and enhancing the potential that each and every one of our employees possesses.

With the seeds already sown, you'll further stimulate the growth of our employees through the creation and implementation of effective training programmes. Through your systematic and

structured approach to work, you'll ensure that a first-class personnel service, capable of meeting manpower needs in all areas, is always at hand.

Experience within the NHS at Director level is preferred, although if you possess an impressive track record of effective contribution to major change within a large organisation, this, coupled with your ability to assess trends and work towards the future will add weight to your application.

Please contact Dr Peter Kennedy, District General Manager on (0504) 610700 ext. 4063, for an informal discussion or to arrange a visit.

An information pack can be obtained from Mrs Rita Reed, Personnel Department, York Health Authority, Bootham Park, York YO3 7BY; telephone number as above, ext. 4058, to whom completed applications should be returned by 1<sup>st</sup> August 1990.

To apply please submit a detailed C.V., and a covering letter highlighting relevant experience and views on the future direction of the Human Resource function in the light of the radical changes facing the NHS.



### TRINITY HOUSE LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE HIGHER PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL OFFICER RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER EAST COWES

SALARY RANGE £11,709 - £15,504

Applicants are invited for the above post in the Electrical and Radio Section of the Trinity House Depot at East Cowes, Trinity House at the Lighthouse Service for England, Wales and the Channel Islands.

The successful applicant for the post will become a member of a team of Radio Engineers involved with Lighthouse and Lighthouse Automation Projects. They will be responsible for planning, installation, maintenance and repair of radio equipment, preparation of procurement specifications, supervision of shop maintenance contractors and factory acceptance testing.

Applicants for the post should possess a Degree or equivalent and have at least two years professional experience in Radio Engineering.

The terms and conditions of employment include immediate membership of the pension scheme, a generous leave allowance and flexible working hours.

Relocation expenses of up to £5,000 may be available to suitable candidates.

Application forms may be obtained from the Personnel and General Services Manager, Trinity House, Tower Hill, London, EC3N 4DH.

(Telephone 071-480 6801 Ext. 2277) and should be returned with a comprehensive CV by 13th August 1990.

ChildLine



0800 1111

### ChildLine Wales

ChildLine, the free national helpline for children in trouble or danger, now seeks to increase its services to children in Wales and in order to do so will open an office in Cardiff during 1990. We are looking for the right people to take the lead in establishing and staffing the new centre.

### APPEALS CO-ORDINATOR £17,700

We need a self motivated person to build on our existing success and ensure the necessary funds are raised to support ChildLine Wales. You will need to be creative yet practical, a good public speaker and above all sensitive to the need to get on with all types of people. Previous experience of fundraising would be an advantage.

The successful applicant will be highly committed to children and to the promotion of ChildLine's aims and objectives and, ideally be able to communicate in Welsh both orally and in writing.

Requests for further details and an application form should be sent to:

**Ann Russell (Ref: ACW)**  
Personnel Manager  
ChildLine

Royal Mail Building  
Stodd Street  
London N1 0QW

Closing date: 31 August 1990

## LEGAL

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### SOLICITOR (ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES)

Salaries up to £21,447 per annum

Required in the Legal Section, County Hall, Preston. (Ref: 41/90/81).

To provide legal and administrative support on environmental and town/country planning functions.

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Working for one of the largest local authorities in the United Kingdom will provide opportunities for advancing your career in local government. The County Council also has a good record of promotion to more senior posts within the authority itself.

Lancashire offers an attractive combination of a plentiful supply of quality housing, large areas of scenic countryside, a strong public transport presence and an excellent motorway network.

Application forms available from Office Management Section, Chief Executive/Clerk's Department, County Hall, Preston, quoting above Ref No or by telephoning (0772) 263385.

Closing date: 16th August, 1990.

This post is politically restricted under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

### PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR UP TO £25,300 ASSISTANT SOLICITOR UP TO £21,340

Delyn Borough Council is one of the six Districts in the County of Gwynedd, North Wales and is situated in the attractive North East corner of the County, on the Dee Estuary. The Council has an ambitious programme of delivering high quality, cost effective services, through its "Delyn in the 90s" strategy. Our small, but very busy, Legal Section has a significant role in helping the Council achieve its aims and objectives, and expects its staff to play a significant role in ensuring consistently high standards of service.

The Principal Solicitor will undertake a wide variety of work, and will need the personal qualities to achieve objectives under pressure while maintaining good working relationships. The Assistant Solicitor will be our Litigation specialist and experience in this field would be useful. Confidence and good communication skills are a must for both these positions.

Both packages include a basic salary together with a Performance Related Bonus of up to 10% under a 3 year rolling contract. The benefits we offer are attractive and include relocation from £2,000 in approved cases, plus help with temporary housing.

If you wish to discuss these opportunities further, please contact Peter Evans, our Borough Solicitor on (09528) 63345, Extension 300. Alternatively, ask for a job description and an application form from Personnel Services, Extension 305, Delyn House, Chapel Street, Flint, CH6 5BD. Completed applications should be returned to Personnel Services by no later than Wednesday 15th August 1990. CANNING DISQUALIFIED

CYNOR BWADEISTREF **delyn** BOROUGH COUNCIL

## ALYN &amp; DEESIDE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING DEPARTMENT, CONNAH'S QUAY  
Alyn and Deeside is an attractive mixed urban/rural area within easy reach of the historic City of Chester, and close to Snowdonia and the North Wales coast.

A new post has been created to have responsibility for promoting and administering the Council's economic development and marketing policies. Applications are invited from professional and dynamic self starters for the post of:

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING OFFICER

Salary Scale: PO (41-44) £19,911 to £21,447

The successful candidate will have a degree and an additional qualification in marketing or business administration, with experience in the area of public sector development. The appointee will be engaged in attracting all types of employment generating activities and funding that will be of benefit to the prosperity of the District. Much endeavour will be devoted to publicising the fact that Alyn and Deeside is a worthwhile area for the investment of industrial and commercial resources.

The following benefits are applicable to the post:  
- Essential User Car Allowance/Assisted Car Purchase Scheme.  
- Flexible Working Hours  
- Assistance with Temporary Council Housing  
- Payment of Professional Fees.

For further information contact Robin Morris, Chief Planning Officer, Tel: (0244) 823133.

Job Description and Application Form from: Personnel Services Section, Alyn and Deeside District Council, Council Offices, Glynne Way, HAWARDEN, Deeside, CH64 3NU.  
Tel: (0244) 531212, Ext. 251.  
Closing date: Monday, 20th August, 1990.

**AD**

### RIVERSIDE, HOUNSLOW AND SPELTHORNE AUDIT CONSORTIUM.

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These posts will provide extensive experience of internal audit duties across a wide range of services/activities and emphasis will be placed on the development and training of team staff. Actual salaries will depend upon qualifications, experience and possession of relevant skills. In addition to the above salary, staff benefits include: lease car scheme, flextime, leisure facilities, contributory pension schemes, season ticket loan, subsidised restaurant and canteen facilities.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Peter Nott, Assistant Director/Audit Management on 081-846 7271/7298.

For an application form and job description please contact Gordon Pether, Personnel Services Manager on 081-846 6732.

Closing date: August 10, 1990  
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## OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

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### CITY TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

### PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT (Ref No 125)

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The City Treasurer invites applications from partly qualified accountants who are intent upon completing their studies. Candidates should be capable of self motivation, have experience of working in the public sector (preferably local government) and be prepared to work in a team environment. The successful applicant will gain experience of budget preparation and will assist in closing the Council's accounts as well as helping with the variety of other tasks associated with an accountancy section in a District Council.

Closing Date - 10th August, 1990.

Our generous benefits package includes -

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## SPORT

## The one that got away on a day of unprecedented feats at Lord's

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Did it carry? An elated and then pensive Fraser waits for the umpires' decision after believing he had Kapil Dev caught at second slip by Gooch. This incident was the main talking point of the early play in another thrilling day at Lord's

## India are facing a Himalayan target

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (fourth day of five): India, with eight second-innings wicket in hand, need 415 runs to beat England

THE bottom line, after yet another day of bewildering figures and unprecedented feats at Lord's, is that India must make the highest winning fourth-innings score in Test match history to beat England today. Given the way that this incredible match has developed, it will probably be a formality.

Much the likelier outcome, history dictates, is that England will now take the eight remaining wickets to record their second consecutive Test win and their third of 1990. But, after four heady days containing 1,436 runs and 20 wickets, this is one contest in which no observer would begrudge or bemoan a draw. It has been electrifying, one of the great matches of modern times.

There was a distinct fear of anti-climax at start of play yesterday. If India survived the follow-on, the game might have been pronounced clinically dead and the extravaganzas of the first three days rendered memorable irrelevancies. The outcome was wondrously different; India did avoid following on,

India won toss

First Innings 653 for 4 dec (G A Gooch 333, A J Lamb 139, R A Smith 100 not out).

## ENGLAND

Second Innings				
	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Score
G A Gooch c Asharuddin b Sharma	123	4	13	147
M A Atherton c Vengsarkar b Sharma	72	2	8	156
D I Gower not out	32	4	68	55
A J Lamb c Tendulkar b Hirani	19	2	37	27
R A Smith b Prabhakar	15	1	20	19
Extras (lb 11)	11			
Total (4 wickets dec, 54.2 overs)	272			

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-204, 2-207, 3-250, 4-272.  
BOWLING: Kapil Dev 10-0-53-0; Prabhakar 11-2-45-1 (nb 1); (9-2-32-0, 2-2-0-13-1); Shastri 7-0-38-0; Sharma 15-0-75-2 (nb 1); Hirani 11-0-50-1.

## INDIA

First Innings				
	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Score
R J Shastri c Gooch b Hemmings	100	1	12	245
N S Sidhu c Morris b Fraser	30	2	78	56
S V Manjrekar c Russell b Gooch	18	1	73	59
Top-edged out to wicketkeeper	52	8	137	111
S V Vengsarkar c Russell b Fraser	121	22	174	112
M A Asharuddin b Hemmings	10	1	30	19
S R Tendulkar b Lewis				
Extras (lb 11)				

though not without controversy or heroics, where upon Graham Gooch resumed his personal revision of Wisden's batting records. Gooch's 123, scored in 2½ hours of murderous intent, set him on a pedestal as the only man ever to make a triple

century and a single century in the same match. He also eclipsed Greg Chappell's previous record of 380 runs in a Test match and fell only 44 short of the 500 he required for the all time record in any first-class game.

He paused in time to declare, setting India the small matter of 472 in seven hours. He was not really being over cautious. An earlier declaration was precluded partly by poor light but more pertinently by the fact the pitch remains essentially good, save for the odd low bounce, and

runs have come at four an over throughout the match. Indian sides of recent years have also made a habit of pursuing the impossible with unshakeable faith. In 1976, they scored 406 to beat the West Indies, which remains a record. Three years later, in

## SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

M Prabhakar c Lewis b Malcolm	25	3	76	49
Mistimed drive to mid-on				
Kapil Dev not out	77	4	88	75
Y K S More c Morris b Fraser	8	1	38	30
S K Sharma c Russell b Fraser	0	1	2	2
Fenced outside off-stump	0	1	2	2
N D Hirani lbw b Fraser	0	1	2	2
Station on the back foot by ball keeping low				
Extras (lb 1, w 4, nb 0)	13			
Total (114.1 overs)	454			

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-63, 2-102, 3-191, 4-241, 5-288, 6-348, 7-393, 8-430, 9-430.  
BOWLING: Malcolm 25-1-105-1 (nb 1); (8-0-30-0, 8-0-28-0, 2-1-2-0, 5-0-28-0, 6-0-20-1); Fraser 33-1-104-5 (nb 5); (5-2-5-0, 2-0-4-0, 10-4-15-1, 5-2-11-0, 8-1-10-1, 4-0-19-0, 3-0-19-0, 7-1-0-20-3); Lewis 24-3-108-1 (nb 10, w 1); (8-0-8-0, 7-2-24-0, 7-1-25-0, 7-4-5-1); Gooch 6-3-23-1 (4-3-7-1, 2-0-18-0); Hemmings 22-3-105-2 (10-2-45-1, 10-1-64-1).

## Second Innings

	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Score
R J Shastri c Russell b Malcolm	12	2	29	16
Diving leg-side catch	1	1	8	5
N S Sidhu c Morris b Fraser	29	4	50	40
But and pad to short leg				
S V Manjrekar not out	1	1	29	28
Extras (nb 1)	14			
Total (2 wickets, 15 overs)	57			

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-23.  
BOWLING: Fraser 7-2-11-1 (nb 1); Malcolm 5-0-27-1; Hemmings 2-0-8-0; Hemmings 1-0-11-0.  
Umpires: H D Bird and M T Pines.  
WEATHER: Cloudy at first, perhaps with the occasional shower, but it should brighten later.  
TV TIMES: BBC 1: 14.20-16.10, BBC 2: 08.45-10.25, 10.50-13.05, 13.35-16.25 (with racing), 23.15-23.55, BBC 2: 20.00-22.00.

England, they fell only nine short of Mike Brearley's tongue-in-cheek target of 438 at the Oval. Arguably, the current touring side bat better and deeper than these predecessors. Certainly, they bat with at least as much joy.

Take yesterday morning, for example. Most teams, confronted by the equation of gathering 78 more runs from their last four wickets would have settled for a timeless plod. Not India. They made the runs in 65 minutes, Kapil Dev scoring 63 of them from only 55 balls.

In the day's second over, bowled by Fraser, Kapil edged the ball low to second slip, where Gooch scooped it up and spontaneously claimed the catch. Kapil declined to walk. Umpire Pines walked across to his square leg colleague, Bird, and then gestured to the batsman, who stood his ground. Pines later said: "My vision was obscured by the bowler. I consulted Dickie and, as a result, had to give the batsman not out."

The inference is that neither umpire was sure, in which case Kapil either accepted Gooch's honesty or, as he chose to do, did not.

## MOST RUNS IN A MATCH

## Most runs in a first-class match

Runs	Player	Team	Score
498	Don Bradman	Australia	1936-37
458	G A Gooch	England	1989-90
445	D G Bradman	Australia	1929-30
443	A E Voges	England	1928-29
437	S B Notman	England	1948-49
437	W H Ponsford	England	1927-28
436	W H Ponsford	England	1922-23
428	Arbab Baloch	Pakistan	1973-74
424	A C Mackenzie	England	1928-29
405	G A Hick	England	1988-89
402	W W Armstrong	England	1920-21

land, for their batsmen transgressing on the sensitive areas of the pitch, and to India, for their bowlers "interfering with the surface of the ball".

None of this should obscure the compulsive nature of the cricket, in which Kapil was high on the credit list. He had quickly lost his captain, Asharuddin, hitting across a turning ball from Hemmings and when More and Sharma fell to Fraser within three balls, the follow-on was a warm favourite.

Kapil took a firm view of the help he could expect from this direction. Hirani survived one ball from Fraser, leaving Kapil facing Hemmings with 24 needed for the initial target. He blocked two balls, then drove the next four into the building works for six. Simple.

They were strokes of enormous power and timing, hit with precision over a long-on and long-off posted for the

County championship, page 38

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## League finds a new sponsor

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE Football League lost one backer and found another yesterday when it was announced that Rumbelows and not National Power would sponsor the former Littlewoods Cup.

Two weeks ago the League was on the verge of an announcement that National Power, the nationalised electricity generating company, would provide the competition with £4 million during a four-year contract. But last week the negotiations foundered and the draw for the first round of this season's competition was delayed when National Power declared losses of £605 million along with 5,000 redundancies.

Rumbelows, an electrical appliances firm with branches

prominent in most high streets, proved a late but eager — not to mention more lucrative — substitute, stepping into the arena with a £5 million sponsorship over four years.

It will replace Littlewoods, whose four-year, £2 million support of the competition ended last season. Trevor Phillips, the commercial director of the League, said: "We are delighted. Rumbelows is a well known name. This will give all our clubs some great promotional opportunities."

The sponsorship mirrors the League's arrangement with Barclays Bank, which also has branches nationwide. Phillips said: "That is the real attraction of this sponsorship, the high street retailing

connection means that its real value will be felt where it is important, at club level."

Phillips added that Rumbelows "did not start talking to me until within the last two weeks. There were other options, but this was the one I was happiest with."

On National Power he said: "The government's announcement about changes in the power industry last week put it into a very difficult situation. It was bad timing, and this last weekend was extremely frenetic."

The sponsorship will help facilitate the move towards all-seated stadiums demanded by Lord Justice Taylor's report into the Hillsborough stadium disaster.

Plans abandoned, page 39

## Riders refuse to speak out against rapping

From JENNY MACARTHUR IN STOCKHOLM

OTTO Becker and René Tebbel, two of the West German show jumpers who featured in the notorious "rapping" film at the yard of their trainer, Paul Schockemöhle, declined to condemn the practice when they arrived here yesterday for the world show jumping championships, which start tomorrow.

Becker, who was seen on the film riding a horse which Schockemöhle was hitting on the legs with a wooden pole, said: "Although rapping is forbidden under the rules of the International Equestrian Federation at shows it is not forbidden at home, but we will of course be discussing the issue when we get home."

Significantly, Herbert

Meyer, the West German team trainer for the last 30 years, admitted using the practice of rapping "to make horses that are not very careful jump clear".

The organisers of the World Equestrian Games have increased security after threats of protests against the West Germans from animal welfare groups.

Virginia Leng, page 38

## Runcorn stay put

Runcorn Highfield, the Rugby League second division club, have abandoned plans to share a ground with the football team, St Helens Town. They have decided to stay at Canal Street, the home of Runcorn FC.

## Saddle-sore Strong in a record ride

PAULINE Strong, the former British cycling international, set a woman's record yesterday when she completed a non-stop ride from Land's End to John o'Groats in two days, 6hr 49min.

Strong, aged 34, chopped 4hr 18min off a record which had stood for 36 years.

When Eileen Sheridan set the previous record in 1956 she had to ride 870 miles. New roads have cut the distance by 25 miles, but they have done little to make the challenge more tempting.

In 36 years, Strong, who runs a bicycle shop at Caldicot near Chepstow, is only the second woman to challenge that record.

## Atoning for shortcomings in the state sector

OTHER than the perennial concerns over short-pitched bowling and dilatory over rates, there can be no more emotive cricketing topic than the perceived decline of the game in state schools. Even the Chancellor of the Exchequer has voiced his opinion. "Because it is not played so much now, the quantum of cricket has been harmed," John Major said on Saturday.

His concern is shared by many, not least by those with accented political leanings. Be it the demise of the grammar schools, teachers working to rule, comprehensives which lack grounds and groundsmen or boys given the option of not participating, there is a widespread indictment of the state system. One under-15s manager, Ken Lake, of Humberstone Schools, is to conduct a survey this winter to try to discover just how much cricket is played in the area.

The public schools, meantime, continue to maintain their stan-

After the ESCA Festival last week, IVO TENNANT looks at the state of cricket in the schools

dards, be they applied to pitches, coaching or those who make a career of first-class cricket thereafter. They confer upon the successful schoolboy cricketer a status which has not diminished with a greater emphasis upon academic achievement. It is significant that the annual Eton-Harrow fixture, although now a one-day match, is still staged at Lord's.

No one has done more in the past decade to foster links between state schools, which come under the auspices of English Schools Cricket Association (ESCA) and the independent Head Masters Conference Schools (HMC) than Hubert Doggart. A former headmaster and president of ESCA, he feels that county associations have compensated for a lack of cricket within schools simply by organising a

greater number of matches.

"Maintained schools in inner city areas do have problems", he said. "But if a boy is keen, there should be opportunities for him. Cricket clubs run nets and junior sides, and there is an immense amount of coaching in the winter by school masters and top National Cricket Association (NCA) coaches. The London Community Cricket Association is doing a lot in terms of taking coaches into schools. Boys are spoilt now because they have kit provided."

"There is more cricket played at Winchester than when I taught there and certainly more than when I was a boy. What has also changed, though, is the range of activities that can be pursued at school, and the shortening of the summer term with earlier exam dates makes it harder for boys and cricket masters."

"What is encouraging is the attention given to improved planning and preparation for the best players." He was referring to the

Test and County Cricket Board's (TCCB) development of excellence scheme, which embraces ESCA. Three coaches, Graham Saville (under-19s), Les Lenham (under-17s) and David Lloyd (under-15s) have been given a brief to identify the most talented teenage players in the country from the age of 14.

There is considerable sponsorship and support for the range of competitions and forms of the game at schoolboy level. "Without them", Doggart said, "we could say with King Lear, 'nothing will come of nothing.'" The Lord's Taverners Cricketers Colts Trophy for schools has been running since 1972. Barclays back an under-17 cup competition. There is softball at primary level and Kwik cricket to give schools in inner city areas an idea of the game is organised by the Cricket Council. Wrigley's Softball tournament, which culminates in a final at Edgbaston, is in its tenth

year. Any primary school, however small, can cater.

Every year the MCC Oxford Festival is staged for the 44 best schoolboys in the country. The Eton/Lord's Taverners primary festivals, played with a hard ball, inadvertently tries to persuade schools that they should improve their pitches. These past four years David English and his Bunbury children's books have given the ESCA festival a new significance in terms of publicity and charisma.

Over all this ESCA keeps watch, under the umbrella of NCA. Its main aim, when it was founded in 1948, was to safeguard the "mental, moral and physical development of schoolboys through the medium of cricket." Through the dedication of numerous schoolmasters who have given of their time freely and willingly over the decades, it is atoning all the while for shortcomings in the state sector.